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# THE TIMES



No. 66,126 MONDAY FEBRUARY 16 1998 http://www.the-times.co.uk

**TODAY**

**20p**

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DETAILS IN 16-PAGE SUPPLEMENT

**TODAY**

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**BEST KEPT SECRET**  
Designer Elspeth Gibson hits the catwalk

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### Security teams co-ordinate efforts

## British alert over Saddam terror strike

By MICHAEL EVANS  
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S intelligence agencies, Scotland Yard and the Home Office are drawing up contingency plans in case President Saddam Hussein attempts to use biological or chemical agents in terrorist attacks in Britain.

The director of the Home Office's police policy directorate, Stephen Boyd Smith, is in charge of co-ordinating plans. These are expected to include a repeat of an exercise carried out in 1991 before the start of the American-led allied campaign to expel Iraqi forces from Kuwait in 1991. Then officials held a secret exercise in London to rehearse the steps to be taken in the event of an Iraqi terrorist attack using anthrax or nerve gas.

No such attack took place and, although Saddam said that he would launch terrorist missions against London and other coalition capitals, the threat proved groundless.

While MI5 is in overall charge of assessing all the intelligence, information gleaned by its own sources, MI6 and GCHQ (the electronic eavesdropping facility in Cheltenham), the Home Office and Scotland Yard have focused on the emergency measures.

Senior officials from Porton Down, the Chemical and Biological Defence Agency in Wiltshire, headed by Paul Taylor, the director, and military personnel from the Ministry of Defence have also played a key role in advising the Home Office.

Although the possibility of Iraqi terrorists succeeding in bringing nerve agents or anthrax into Britain is thought to be highly unlikely, all the relevant departments and agencies have met to ensure that the contingency plans are adequately robust.

Security sources emphasised that all the steps being taken were "sensible precautions" and did not arise from any specific intelligence of an Iraqi plot. They said the risks were probably greater for British interests overseas which might be more vulnerable to opportunist attacks.

A spokeswoman for the Foreign Office said all businessmen travelling in the region had been warned to be vigilant. The official added: "Travelling to Iraq would be foolhardy in the extreme."

Security sources said yesterday that there was only one precedent for a terrorist attack using non-conventional material - the 1995 attack on the Tokyo underground by a doomsday cult using plastic bags filled with sarin nerve gas agent. Twelve people died and 5,000 were injured.

The sources said: "This was an attack by an indigenous group and it would be far more difficult for a terrorist to bring such material into Britain. But no one is being complacent and we are looking at all possibilities. A strong emphasis is being laid on the importance of intelligence-gathering to counter any such threat to this country."

MI5 is providing a regular threat assessment and is also responsible for giving advice to the Government on the best protective measures needed to maintain absolute vigilance.

Although the contingency plans were set up to deal with nuclear, chemical and biological attacks, the assessment is that any threat arising from the current crisis is more likely to come from conventional weapons. "The vast majority of terrorist attacks over the last 30 years have involved bombs and bullets," one source said.

Weapons of mass destruction had a "greater dread factor" but it would be wrong, the sources said, to "hype up" the dangers of such a threat in the present circumstances.

Iraq has no delivery system, such as long-range ballistic missiles, capable of hitting Britain, although its longest range Scud missiles can reach other parts of the Middle East, such as Israel, as was demonstrated in the Gulf War.

A spokesman for Porton Down said that its experts on chemical and biological warfare were giving advice to the Home Office but there had been "no crisis meetings".

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Industry of Defence have also played a key role in advising the Home Office.

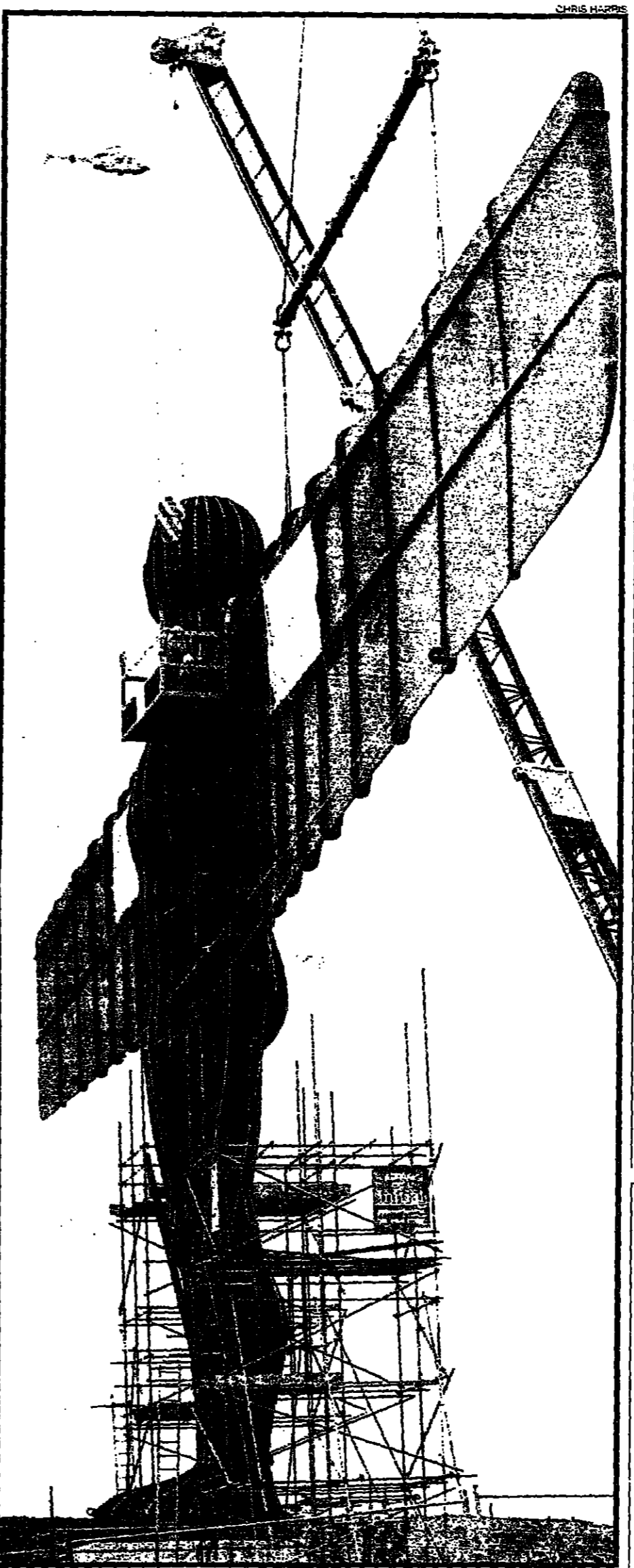
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ON A windswept hillside beside the A1 Britain's biggest sculpture finally took shape yesterday (Paul Wilkinson writes).

It can withstand winds of 100 mph but there was no escaping the storm of controversy which continued to rage around the £800,000 cost of Anthony Gormley's *Angel of the North*. The crowd on the

hill overlooking Gateshead was divided over whether the 60-ft steel construction, with the wingspan of a jumbo jet, was either a work of inspiration or a spectacular waste of

money. Sam Arnold, a shipyard worker, said: "I think it is magnificent. My two lads are gobsmacked by it." But Martin Callanan, 36, a former Conservative councillor said: "I don't feel proud. I feel angry. The money has come mostly from the lottery, the EU, and Northern Arts."

Leading article, page 21

## Pensioners taskforce to improve life for the old

By NICHOLAS WATT, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

SIX Government ministers have been appointed to a "pensioners taskforce" to find ways of improving life for Britain's 10 million pensioners.

John Denham, the Pensions Minister, set up the group in response to criticism that Labour's welfare reforms will come too late for many old people. The Government's pensions reform will not become law until after 2000.

The three key aims are to reduce the cost of travel, lower the cost of fuel bills and subsidise television licences.

One member of the new group, the Trade Minister Nigel Griffiths, has already implemented a five-point plan to help the elderly. This includes action against cowboy builders who target the elderly and a crackdown on rogue salesmen.

Mr Griffiths said some gas companies are behaving "outrageously" by tricking old people into signing up to their service. The companies circumvent regulations which give consumers the right to cancel a signed agreement if a salesman arrives unannounced. The salesmen ask elderly people whether they would like a second visit, which is then regarded as an invitation.

Glenda Jackson, the Transport Minister, who at 61 is herself a pensioner, is examining cutting the costs of travel. Pensioners, who receive free travel in London, the West Midlands and Merseyside, are campaigning for this to be extended nationwide regardless of income.

Mark Fisher, the Culture Minister, is examining how television licences can be reduced. Pensioners groups complain that pensioners living on their own have to pay the full £94.50 fee, while people in sheltered accommodation pay a nominal £5. Under one option hotels would be charged for every television set, raising enough to halve pensioners' licences.

Paul Boateng, the Health Minister, is looking at ways of rehabilitating elderly people out of hospital. Labour has already fulfilled a manifesto commitment to set up a Royal Commission into long-term care.

Alan Howarth, the Employment Minister with responsibility for the disabled, is monitoring equal opportunities and age discrimination. The group also wants Mr Howarth's Education and Employment Department to improve opportunities for the elderly. The ministers have been meeting with little fanfare because of fears that the Tories will accuse Labour of planning dramatic increases in spending on the elderly. But Mr Denham yesterday hailed the new group for giving pensioners "a voice at the heart of Government".

He said: "This is a valuable opportunity for ministers to meet and understand what each other hopes to achieve for retired people and to look at ways we can all ensure that the Government is able to respond to the interests of pensioners. We want to enhance their contribution to society."

Ministers believe that virtually every Government department can have an impact, which means that six ministers from five departments sit on Mr Denham's group.

### Higher pay may push up rates

Bank of England hawks anxious to raise interest rates further will be bolstered by data from the CBI showing a jump in agreed pay rise at the end of last year.

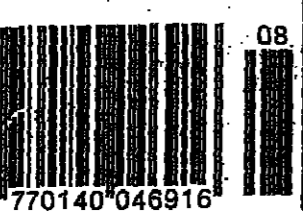
Pay awards in service industries averaged 4.5 per cent, against 3.8 per cent in manufacturing. Page 48

### War on violence

Teachers will today be given "rules of engagement" on how to restrain violent pupils and break up fights in the battle to keep order in schools. They are told that physical intervention must never be viewed as punishment. Page 4

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## Expelled Sinn Fein 'may never return'

By MARTIN FLETCHER, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

IF Sinn Fein is suspended from the peace talks today, "events on the ground" could prevent it ever returning, Martin McGuinness, the party's chief negotiator, said yesterday.

Mr McGuinness denied he was predicting a return to full-scale IRA violence, though he said the dangers were "obvious to everyone". But he did suggest that those determined to wreck the peace process could make Sinn Fein's return impossible by committing terrorist acts for which the IRA could be blamed.

The talks move to Dublin Castle, the former seat of British rule, for three days from this morning, and Sinn Fein will vigorously resist ejection, even as four West Belfast men appear in court charged with last Tuesday's murder of Robert Dougan, a leading loyalist paramilitary. Gerry Adams and Mr

McGuinness will argue that Sinn Fein had nothing to do with the murder of Mr Dougan or of Brendan Campbell, a drugs dealer, the previous night. The party is threatening legal action if expelled.

But Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, will present what is said to be compelling evidence of IRA involvement in the murders unmissed by the RUC, and last night support for Sinn Fein appeared almost non-existent. Dr Mowlam said no one wanted to negotiate with a gun at their head. Bertie Ahern, the Irish Prime Minister, said the information he had received was "very worrying".

Technically, the talks can continue without Sinn Fein. Its vote is not required under the "sufficient consensus rule" because the SDLP speaks for a majority of nationalists.

## Chips with everything may be good for some

By NIGEL HAWKES  
SCIENCE EDITOR

LOW-FAT diets, an article of faith among doctors for a generation, may be useless or even damaging for two thirds of the population. Dr Ronald Krauss of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, California, has found that response to a low-fat diet entirely depends on an individual's genes.

For one in three reducing the intake of saturated fat may represent the best hope of avoiding a heart attack by lowering cholesterol which is implicated in the process in

which arteries become furred. There are two kinds of cholesterol: the damaging kind, called low-density lipoprotein (LDL), which sticks to the artery lining, and the good kind, called high-density lipoprotein (HDL), which protects against heart disease.

Dr Krauss and his colleagues have established that there is a further subtlety. Some people have a particular type of LDL, called pattern B, which gives them a raised heart disease risk as well as an increased risk of diabetes. "This trait is found in about one in three adult men, and one in five to six

postmenopausal women," Dr Krauss said. People with this profile who go on diets very low in fat are likely to benefit.

But for the rest - two thirds of men and five sixths of women which he calls pattern A - the opposite may be true. Most showed no benefit and, worryingly, a proportion actually flipped to pattern B.

When a group of 87 pattern A men were given the low fat diets, a third of them shifted to the pattern B profile. This means that over 20 per cent of men could potentially suffer adverse consequences.

The standard advice is to

reduce the total amount of calories taken as fat to 30 per cent. Dr Krauss does not believe following these recommendations can do any harm, but questions the value of lowering fat levels further.

The findings may help explain many puzzling results obtained in large-scale dietary interventions. These studies have been far less effective in reducing death rates than their originators hoped.

Dr Krauss says that the results should not influence those who have tried to cut fat moderately - though he has no evidence to corroborate this.

"I'm worried - he eats all his greens but won't touch his chips"

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### The South swelters, but Scots get soaked

THOUSANDS of sun-seekers have enjoyed the warmest February weekend on record as much of Britain basked in Mediterranean conditions. But as many people flocked to seaside resorts in the South and East, parts of Scotland were suffering heavy rain. About 15mm of rain fell in Glasgow alone.

Martin Rowley, national forecaster at the Met Office, said: "Taking Friday, Saturday and Sunday together, it is the warmest February weekend that we know of." Friday was the warmest February day, with a top temperature of more than 19C (66F). Saturday was the warmest Valentine's Day, heating up to 19C (66F), and yesterday was the hottest February 15, with temperatures just under 18C (64F).

Rainmaking, page 15  
Forecast, page 24



Sunbathers on Brighton beach yesterday. Temperatures rose to 19C as much of Britain basked in Mediterranean conditions

## Abbey to honour Powell despite clergy protests

By DANIEL MCGRORY

LEADING churchmen insist that they will go ahead with plans for Enoch Powell to lie at rest in Westminster Abbey before his funeral this week, despite condemnation from politicians and fellow clerics.

Senior figures at the Abbey say they do not fear demonstrations when Mr Powell's coffin is brought there tomorrow night. Because he was a warden of St Margaret's, which is legally part of Westminster Abbey, his body is entitled to rest overnight in the Abbey. His critics insist that, after his notorious 1968 "rivers of blood" speech against immigration, the former Tory and Ulster Unionist MP does not deserve the privilege.

The protest is being led by the Right Rev Wilfred Wood, Bishop of Croydon, who said: "Enoch Powell gave a certificate of respectability to white racist views."

He was backed by Lord Coggan, former Archbishop of Canterbury, who argued: "Anything that would exacerbate the memory of that

speech is to be regretted." The Bishop of Leicester, Dr Tom Butler, said: "I am very sad this is happening. Westminster Abbey is a national shrine, so it looks as if the nation is honouring him in a unique way. It sends the wrong message to the black community."

Canon Ivor Smith-Cameron, a chaplain to the Queen, said last night: "Those who made this decision have made a grave error of judgment. They have brought a sense of dishonour on themselves."

"Let him lie in St Margaret's but not the Abbey, which is for the Commonwealth, for national and international gatherings. Those of us who have worked for community tolerance will remember with terror the damage that man caused."

He added that clerical critics of the move should not try to prevent or disrupt the present arrangements.

Church officials said this special honour was not to Powell the politician who died

last week aged 85, but to a devout Christian who had been a warden of St Margaret's since 1983. The plan is for his coffin to remain in the Abbey overnight and then be moved to St Margaret's on Wednesday morning for the funeral service.

A senior Church of England spokesman said last night: "Have these bishops and others forgotten the Christian message that in death there is forgiveness? Some people can't forget, but they should be able to forgive. What is political correctness compared to Jesus?"

Critics within the church were told to "pray for the repose of Mr Powell's soul rather than add to the sombre grief of his family."

The Tory MP for Staffordshire South, Sir Patrick Cormack, who will be delivering an address at the funeral on Wednesday, said: "These clergymen have shown a singular lack of Christian charity and a bigoted narrowness."

Sir Teddy Taylor, Conserva-



Powell was warden at St Margaret's

tive MP for Rochford and Southend East, said: "Enoch Powell was a deeply religious man and concerned about the good of society."

"It would be appalling if church leaders were to place their own interpretation on what he said and to use this as a reason for not having his body in the Abbey. This is inconsistent with Christian teaching. This merely adds to the grief of his friends and relatives, and may well spark off the kind of reaction which these church leaders would not want."

Diary, page 20

## Giant human statue to be at heart of dome

By CAROL MIDGLEY, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

A HUGE sculpture, larger than the Statue of Liberty, is to form a spectacular centerpiece to the Millennium Dome, it was confirmed yesterday. The naked, human figure, made of silver steel and glass fibre, will be hollow, to allow visitors to walk inside and see interactive exhibits about bodily functions and cycle of life.

Arguments are still raging about what sex the statue should be. Some executives from the New Millennium Experience Company, which is overseeing the project, believe that it should be a mother, complete with 40ft baby. Others say it should be a man and a third contingent wants it to be an androgynous figure to combat accusations of gender favouritism.

The 320ft figure, 20ft taller than the Statue of Liberty, will sit or recline on the floor, with its legs outstretched. Even in the sitting position, it will reach the roof 170ft above, making it as tall as Nelson's Column. Its designers want it to celebrate the complexity of the human body.

"There will be a body in the dome on that kind of scale," a spokesman said. "Inside will

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Audit of young sex offenders proposed

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, is proposing a nationwide audit of young sex offenders, arsonists and persistent car thieves as part of his drive to combat youth crime. Local councils are being urged to produce plans giving details of the types of offenders aged 10 to 17 in their district, including the number of sex offenders.

The Home Secretary is also suggesting that the proposed Youth Offending Teams identify children and young people at risk of drifting into crime and that information from social services be shared with other members of the teams, including the police.

The proposals, which suggest that the Government wants a much more proactive approach, including action against those identified as being at risk of offending, are discussed in Home Office guidance on the creation of the Youth Offending Teams. The teams form a key part of the Crime and Disorder Bill currently going through Parliament. Local authority with responsibility for education and social services will be expected to set up one of the new teams.

#### New leads on murder

French police hunting the murderer of Caroline Dickinson, 13, have received more than 400 calls since releasing a photo of the suspect and setting up a telephone line last Friday. Jean-Francois Michel, head of the Saint Malo police, said that at least 20 had provided "interesting leads", which were being actively pursued by investigators. An Internet address has also been set up and had attracted promising information, he said.

#### Ballistic 'library'

A national computer system that stores details of thousands of bullets and makes automatic comparisons in a few seconds is being planned by the Home Office and police. Once the £500,000 ballistic system begins operation forensic science laboratories in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland would be instantly linked. At the moment there is no national collection of guns, bullets and cartridges linked to crime.

#### Businessmen aid policy

Businessmen and academics will be invited for the first time to sit on the Conservative's main policy-making body, William Hague will announce today that Peter Lilley, the shadow Chancellor, will chair the new 11-strong board of the Conservative Policy Forum, which will appoint five outsiders, including businessmen, to help draw up party policy. The board will also include three elected members drawn from constituency or area deputy chairmen.

#### Thais arrest Briton

A young British electrician who accepted an invitation to have a beer with friends in a Bangkok apartment was arrested during a police raid and now faces 25 years in prison on drugs charges. From a cramped prison cell in Bangkok, David Bowley, from Colville, Leicester, said: "I was only there for the beer, but Thai police think I am something big in the drugs world and they threw me in here." Mr Bowley has been locked up for nearly a week.

#### 'Penalise lone parents'

Welfare reform in Britain must be driven by painful financial sanctions for single parents and the unemployed to have any lasting effect, an American sociologist says today. Charles Murray argues in a pamphlet for the Social Market Foundation, an independent think-tank, that the main aim of reform must be to change behaviour, not to cut bills. Lone parenthood must be discouraged because it has extreme negative effects on children.

#### Straw's press vow

Jack Straw will today reassure MPs that the Government will take action to ensure that a privacy law is not introduced by the backdoor restricting press freedom. Opening debate on the Human Rights Bill, the Home Secretary is not expected to detail plans to preserve press self-regulation, but is likely to suggest that safeguards will be written into the Bill, which incorporates the European Convention on Human Rights into domestic law.

#### Hollyoaks condemned

The teenage drama *Hollyoaks* was condemned by TV watchdogs for depicting an attempted rape. Channel 4 said the scene, broadcast around 6.30pm last October, had been carefully considered and contained no nudity. But the Independent Television Commission, upholding three complaints from viewers, said: "This portrayal of an extended assault could not be justified within family viewing time."

#### Rare fish threatened

Britain's rarest freshwater fish, the vendace, which is found only in two lakes in Cumbria, is facing further loss of numbers. Scientists have found that new species of fish introduced into Bassenthwaite Lake and Derwent Water eat the same food as the vendace's eggs, threatening its survival. The Environment Agency is considering tough new controls on the use of live bait in the area and other means of stopping the introduction of fish including roach.

## Anti-smoking lobby cheers 'truth on nicotine'

By FRANCES GIBBS  
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE discovery of files in which a leading tobacco company admits nicotine is addictive was welcomed by anti-smoking campaigners yesterday. Papers belonging to British American Tobacco allegedly show that the company admitted 20 years ago that cigarettes were highly addictive and that nicotine was poisonous.

The papers are being used by lawyers in the USA as evidence in a court case against the company to sue for the cost of treating smokers. The document, Key Areas - Product Innovation Over Next 10 years for Long Term Development, is alleged to have been produced at BAT's Southampton base in August 1979

### TOBACCO 'LIES' FUELLED ADDICTION, SAYS FORMER US HEALTH CHIEF

THE former US Surgeon-General C. Everett Koop yesterday denounced the American tobacco industry for concealing information about the addictive nature of nicotine and the health effects of smoking (Nigel Hawkes writes).

"The public is now fully aware that the tobacco industry lied to them, has been deceitful to them, has known earlier on about the

effects of tobacco, and also knew early about how addictive was the nature of nicotine in tobacco," Dr Koop told the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Philadelphia.

The companies had enraged Americans, he said, yet they still sought to be regarded as respectable companies "rather than the renegades history has proven

them to be". Dr Koop, who retired as surgeon-general in 1989, said that cigarettes were responsible for one in five deaths in the US. "There are 45 million nicotine addicts in this country, all of whom became addicted as children at a time when the tobacco industry was saying, 'Our product is not harmful and nicotine is not addictive.'"

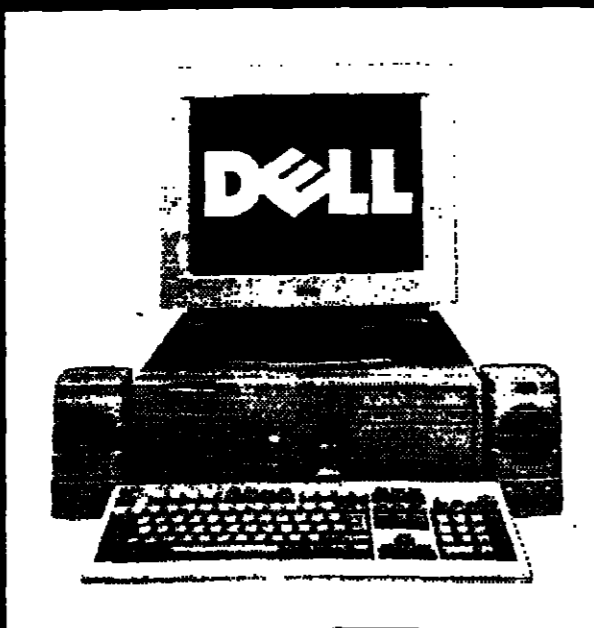
significant. It would appear that these documents do exist. The tobacco companies have always denied the addictive properties of nicotine."

The papers are being entered in a court case in Minnesota. David Bacon, head of corporate communication at British American Tobacco, said: "This would appear to be a few pages from the 30 million pages we have made available voluntarily in Minnesota. You cannot draw conclusions from individual documents. They need to be considered in context. All aspects of the debate have been taking place in public for decades, so it is not surprising that it is taking place inside the company and that some documents contained reference to a subject which never became company policy."

and was aimed at finding a replacement for cigarettes. It states that the company was looking for a "socially acceptable addictive product" and that the "essential constituent is most likely to be nicotine or a direct substitute for it". Lawyers in this country who are preparing Britain's first action by lung-cancer victims against Gallaher and Imperial Tobacco will not be able directly to use the evidence in their own case, but

the documents will be of help in proving the case against the industry as a whole. John Pickering, a partner with Irwin Mitchell who with Leigh Day & Co is acting for 50 lung-cancer victims, said: "This is very, very

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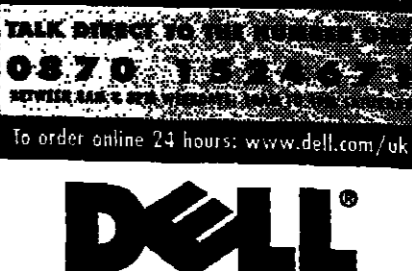
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# Earl's wife pulls her drowning son to safety

BY ADAM FRESKO

THE son of the 16th Earl of Lindsay was recovering in hospital last night after he survived several minutes trapped underwater in a flooded culvert flowing beneath a road.

David Lindsay-Bethune, four, was cycling with his mother, Lady Lindsay, when he fell from his bike into a ditch on the Knoydart Peninsula on the west coast of Inverness-shire. He was swept away into the culvert filled with floodwater and became trapped

under a road. By the time his mother pulled him free he was unconscious, had turned blue and stopped breathing.

Lady Lindsay gave him mouth to mouth resuscitation and a paramedic, who was climbing nearby, came to her assistance. The boy, who was suffering from severe hypothermia, was saved with the help of the Mallaig lifeboat, which was on exercise in the area, after a helicopter from RAF Lossiemouth was unable to reach them because of bad weather.

Lord Lindsay, whose title dates

back to the 17th century, said yesterday: "It was a very close call indeed. My wife's quick thinking has helped to save his life. The paramedic played a very big part and the emergency services, who had to co-ordinate a very difficult rescue operation, were great."

Lady Lindsay explained yesterday that she had gone to look for David after they went out riding together late on Saturday afternoon on their bicycles and he failed to keep up with her. She spotted his bike lying in a water-filled ditch and saw his hat floating in the fast

flowing water. She feared at that point it was too late to save him but she managed to pull him free from the culvert.

As she tried to bring him round his sister Alexandra, nine, raced into the remote community's main settlement at Inverie to get help. The paramedic was able to find and maintain a steady heartbeat while others phoned for the emergency services.

The helicopter was forced to halt its journey at Mallaig in the West Highlands and then the 52ft lifeboat was called into action. When it

arrived the youngster had regained consciousness but was "very very confused and hypothermic".

David's relieved mother was yesterday at his bedside in Raigmore Hospital in Inverness where he is described as being in a stable condition. Lord Lindsay, 43, who is the former Scottish agricultural minister, yesterday praised his wife's quick thinking.

The lord, who has five children, said: "It was a very close call indeed and I am just glad that everything turned out for the best. My wife has admitted to me that when she saw

his hat floating down the stream that she feared the worst.

"My wife was marvellous. My wife administered mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and he finally came round. My wife says it was the longest time of her life waiting for him to wake up. They were biking together at different speeds and she realised he was not behind her. She saw his bike half in the ditch and then saw him well underneath the road."

"He had become stuck so she dragged him back out but he was unconscious and not breathing. It

was the most ghastly experience for her. He was stuck right under the water. If she had not turned back as quickly as she did then things may have turned out differently."

"I have spoken to David on the phone and he remembers in fairly vivid detail falling from the bike and going under the water. We think he then became concussed. Hopefully he will be out of hospital soon and will quickly forget this terrible incident." Bruce Watt, 49, second coxswain of Mallaig lifeboat, said: "The real heroine in this story is the boy's mother."



The huge explosion as the half-ton Second World War German bomb is detonated at last, two days after residents were evacuated



Captain Peter Shields, leader of the bomb team, in the crater after the blast

## The weekend that went with a bang

BY KATHRYN KNIGHT

THE bedraggled 1,100 evacuees of Chippenham were finally home last night, 48 hours after the discovery of two wartime German bombs forced them to abandon their pets, their Valentine plans and everything else they held dear. Their Blitz spirit did not quite last the full length of the operation.

Many had managed to sleep through the controlled explosion of a smaller bomb at 5.20am yesterday. They had been told that the bigger, half-ton bomb would be detonated at 11.15.

But reports of a jogger weaving his way around the outskirts of the 900-metre exclusion zone meant further delay as police and council chiefs attempted to

co-ordinate with Army experts to ensure the area was safe. On a vantage point on a hill above the site, the temporarily homeless shared tales of woe. Heather Wilkinson, 23, had popped out to get a video on Friday afternoon and was then refused entry back into her house: "I've even left my cat Mitzi out all weekend." She had planned a romantic Valentine weekend with her partner Scott Ongley "but Friday 15 put paid to that".

She and Alan Carter, housekeepers to Tony Crew, the farmer who alerted planning experts that there might have been bombs on a school site, kept watch on the Grade II listed home only 500 metres from the detona-

tion site. Mrs Carter said: "We've left 30 budgies, six rabbits, six guinea pigs and countless chickens. The police granted one exception this morning when we were allowed to move our 12 horses so we took the opportunity to smuggle the cat out of the house."

The clock had struck one when the police shouted "Imminent" and the bomb disposal team could be seen running across the fields. Moments later the ground shook and a fountain of earth shot into the air.

Police had planned a controlled return of residents, but moments after the area was declared safe a flood of people jumped into cars and headed for home.

## Woolwich goes gunning for Hollywood big-shots

BY CAROL MIDDLEY  
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

UNTIL now it has been famed for its ferry and as the place which Arsenal Football Club left. But Woolwich may be destined for a more glamorous future as a home of British movies.

Proposals are being drawn up to turn the former Royal Arsenal weapons factory into a studio to rival Pinewood and to feed the demand for British films.

The South London garrison town attracts few visitors, largely because most of its many architectural splendours are hidden by fences and gatehouses. Arsenal FC, which took its name from the ordnance factory, deserted its birthplace in 1913 for Highbury, North London.

But the industrial landscape of Woolwich has been proving popular with film-makers. Box-office hits such as *The Saint*, *101 Dalmatians*, *The*

### TOWN'S CLAIMS TO FAME

- The slogan "I'm with the Woolwich" was invented to advertise the Woolwich Building Society, founded in 1847 in the upstairs room of a pub.
- Woolwich opened the first McDonald's restaurant in Britain.
- The council has produced architectural trails but they do not encompass the bingo hall, indoor market or multi-storey car park.
- Woolwich's importance began in 1512 when Henry VIII opened the Royal Naval Dockyard. The Royal Artillery Barracks, built in 1775, have the longest single facade in the world.
- During a visit of foreign dignitaries to the original gun foundry in 1716, water entered a mould as a gun was cast, causing an explosion that killed 17 people. The authorities moved it to a safer home in fields.

Avengers and *Nil By Mouth* were filmed in the area. Neighbouring Greenwich provided locations for 12 per cent of British television film productions during the first half of last year, including *Kavanagh QC*, *The Bill* and *Thief Takers*.

Greenwich borough has a

complex in the Royal Arsenal, which once employed more than 80,000 people. The site was closed by the Ministry of Defence in 1995.

Janice Harwood, of Greenwich Borough Council, said a decision was yet to be made but councillors were keen to maximise the area's potential for film-making. "The idea of a film studio was mooted at a council meeting," she said. "A report was presented to councillors looking at the feasibility of having a film studio somewhere in the borough."

"We are a popular film location and there is quite a steer towards the Arsenal site. We believe there's great potential for a film studio here."

In 1996, plans were announced to restore the decaying Woolwich Arsenal and to open it to the public for the first time in 300 years. It was part of a £100 million regeneration of the whole of Woolwich, one of the most rundown areas of London.

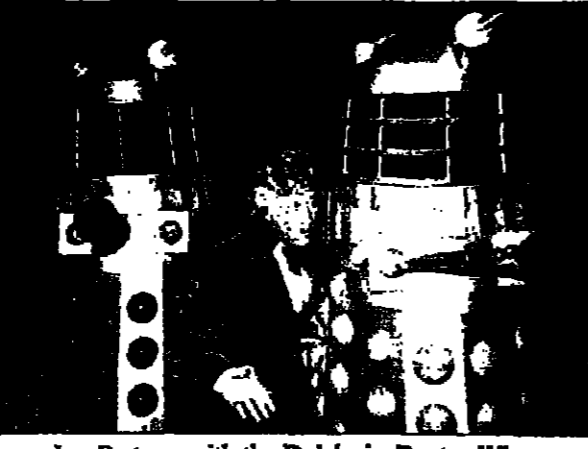
## Cartoons exterminate classics

BY CAROL MIDDLEY

EUROPEAN broadcasters should unite and take action to stop classic children's programmes in the mould of *Play School* and *Doctor Who* from being killed off by the growth of cartoons, a new study claims.

The report urges public service broadcasters to co-produce more shows and have more cross-border exchanges to ensure that the imaginative and creative qualities of children are nurtured by quality programming. It also calls for the regulation of advertising aimed at children.

The pan-European study, *The Integrity and Erosion of Public Television for Children*, says that children are often treated as consumers first and as developing individuals second. The emphasis was increasingly on grabbing children's attention and converting programme characters into toys, games,



Jon Pertwee with the Daleks in *Doctor Who*. Today children are more likely to watch cartoons

videos and posters. It said American influences were starting to take effect in scheduling strategies to build loyalty and viewing habits among young viewers, often through cartoons.

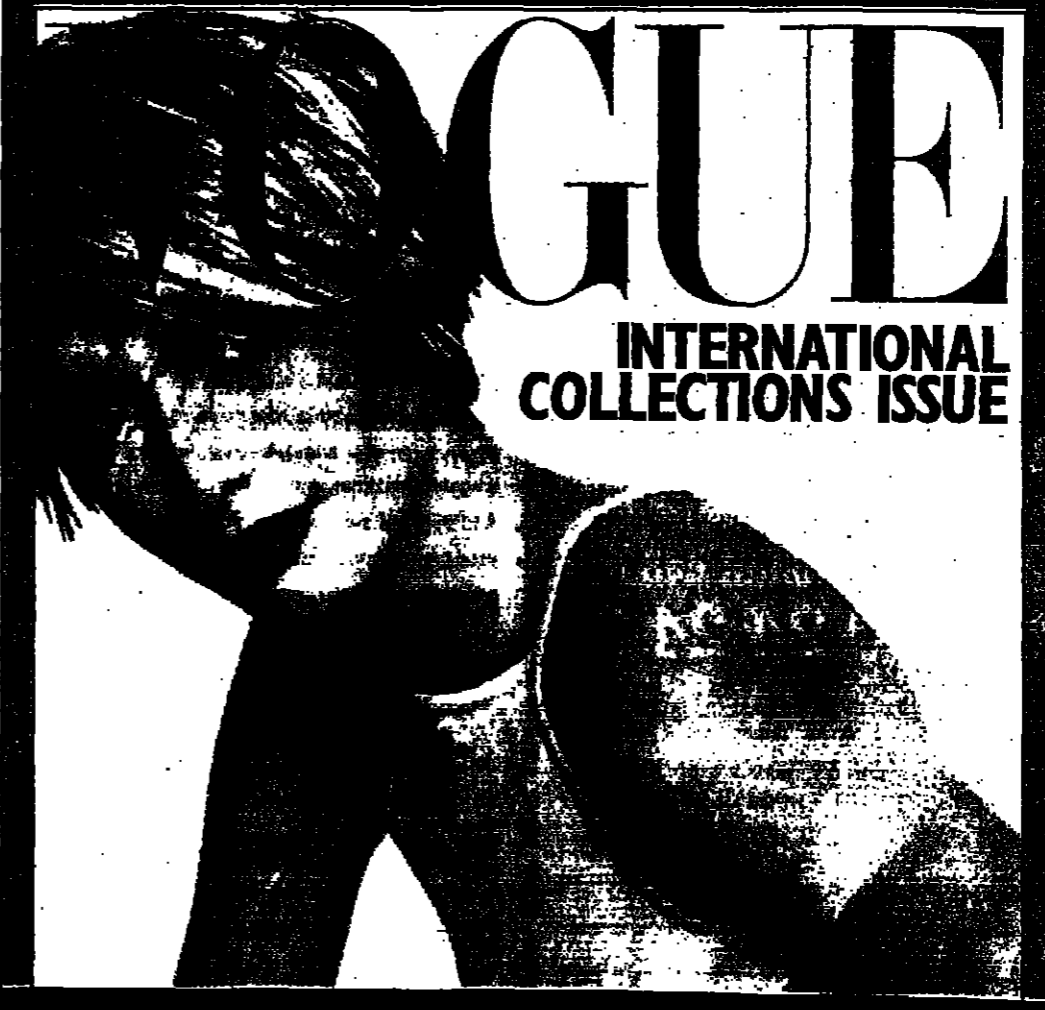
Jay Blumler, one of the report's co-authors, said: "The public service tradition of serving children as all-round developing personalities and future citizens is under threat." The report comes after Independent Television Commission research showed that children in homes with cable and satellite were turning away from terrestrial television to

watch cartoons on channels such as Cartoon Network and Nickelodeon. Terrestrial channels were being forced to compete.

Professor Blumler, emeritus professor at the University of Leeds, and Professor Daniel Biltereyst, from the University of Ghent, called for the European Union to halt the creeping commercialisation and "Americanisation" seeping into public programming.

It said the Council of Europe and the European Broadcasting Union should support more co-production and exchanges between broadcasters. All except three channels - Channel 4, ZDF in Germany and DR in Denmark - had seen a decline in the amount of domestically produced programming and a rise in cartoons, mostly US imports. In 1991 there was an average of 202 hours of imported year per channel. By 1995 it had risen to 340 hours.

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Classical music for breakfast

Classical music for breakfast... (Small text describing the article)

Mugging reward... (Small text describing the article)

Warship's fight... (Small text describing the article)

Theatre saved... (Small text describing the article)

Bridge attack... (Small text describing the article)

Family row... (Small text describing the article)



Ben Woolley and Rosemary Coventry in action. She said: "No one can take away my love of movement and dance"

# Oxford takes steps to trip up dancer

OXFORD University did not miss a step when it discovered one of its own students was competing for Cambridge at a ballroom dancing contest.

**Ruth Gledhill reports on a woman barred from contest for having a foot in both camps**

Cambridge A team. Because this situation is not covered by our constitution, we had to put it out to a vote. It is all highly competitive.

# Mother feared drowned after yacht club dip

By Adam Fressco

A MOTHER of three was feared drowned last night after her 21-month-old baby was found alone at a riverside yacht club.

recovery. His mother's clothes, jewellery and watch were found in the mud near the water's edge.



Jackie Isaacs' baby was found naked by river

Jackie Isaacs, 31, is believed to have gone for a swim in the Thames near the Thurrock Yacht Club, Essex, and got into difficulties with strong currents. Her son, Joseph, was found naked beside his pushchair by staff at the club late on Saturday evening.

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سكنا من الاجل

# Blair aims to stop sales of tacky Diana memorabilia

Prime Minister hopes to use persuasion rather than the law, report Jill Sherman and Daniel McGrory

THE Prime Minister is leading a campaign against what he calls tacky and inappropriate souvenirs of Diana, Princess of Wales. However, he refuses to bow to demands from MPs for a law to prevent the Princess's name being used on memorabilia without prior consent.

Downing Street said that Tony Blair hoped "to influence public opinion" rather than call for a boycott of inappropriate material: "We cannot tell people not to buy memorabilia, but we can use public pressure."

The Diana "industry" is now reported to have produced a computer game, available on the Internet, that replicates the fatal crash in Paris. Players drive a speeding Mercedes through a tunnel while being pursued by paparazzi on motorcycles.

The Tory MP Michael Fabricant, a member of the cul-

ture, media and sport select committee, said: "That is not just tacky, as the Prime Minister said, it's beyond the bounds of good taste." He led the calls yesterday for new legislation, saying there were existing measures to prevent people from selling items with the word "royal" unless the vendors had a warrant. "You could legislate to prevent people selling items of that nature unless approved by the Princess Diana fund."

Trustees of the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund say they are close to completing their own copyright agreement to prevent unscrupulous traders from using her photograph on ashtrays, T-shirts and mugs. They will then be able to take action against those who infringe copyright.

Party leaders supported moves to stem the pirate trade. Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, said:

"People hold Princess Diana, her memory and all she stood for in tremendous respect. We must not allow this to degenerate into bad taste and cheap money-making."

Close friends of the Princess have begun their own campaign to counter the conspiracy theories surrounding her death and the increasingly lurid speculation about her relationship with Dodi Fayed. Her family, including her brother, Earl Spencer, and mother, Frances Shand Kydd, have pleaded for an end to the speculation, arguing that it is distressing her two sons, Prince William and Harry.

Downing Street said that it welcomed support from other party leaders to try to stop such speculation. John Major, the former Prime Minister, who was made a special guardian of the Princess's estate, said at the weekend: "I am sure the Princess's dearest wish would be to protect her sons from this."

William Hague, the Tory leader, said: "It is time to end all this speculation for her family's sake."

The Princess's friends decided to speak out after recent remarks by the Harrods owner, Mohamed Al Fayed, claiming that his son and the Princess were victims of a conspiracy by the British establishment to prevent them from marrying. Rosa Monckton, a long-time confidante, described Mr Al Fayed's theory that they were murdered as "cruel and farcical nonsense".

She also denied that the Princess was either pregnant or planning to marry at the time she died. She disclosed a conversation that the Princess had had with Lady Annabel Goldsmith



Memorabilia on sale in Carnaby Street yesterday. Traders say sales suggest that the public does not regard most items as distasteful.

the day before her death, in which the Princess said: "I'm having a wonderful time, but the last thing I need is a new marriage. I need it like a bad rash on my face."

The Princess said that Mr Fayed was planning to buy her a ring, but insisted that it was not an engagement and that she would wear it on the fourth finger of her right hand.

Her friends are also supporting efforts by the memorial fund to regulate future book and video projects. Vivienne Parry, one of the trustees, said: "We cannot tell people not to buy products. What we can do is put marks on products approved by the family."

Senior figures in the fund accept they face an almost impossible task to prevent pirate traders from selling unlicensed merchandise on street markets. They could also find themselves facing long and expensive court action to defend their copyright.

The fund's copyright agreement will not affect merchandise already produced. A spokesman said: "Clearly

## TRIBUTE THEATRE FALLS FOUL OF RIGID FUNDING SYSTEM

By MARK HENDERSON

THE theatre group which recorded the tribute single to the Princess of Wales is facing financial problems because its refusal to label some members as "disabled" disqualifies it from claiming state grants.

It has had to scale down an innovative training scheme because it falls foul of further education funding guidelines, has postponed plans to expand nationwide and has cut back on private donations because of its connection with Princess Diana's death. A theatre crafts training scheme, which began last year, has been the main casualty of inflexible fund-

ing rules. Many special-needs students who applied were turned down for grants because Chicken Shed was not a special school, and mainstream students rejected because it was not a recognised further education college.

Although it was awarded £4.6 million of lottery money to develop its theatre in Southgate, north London, annual running costs come to nearly £1 million.

John Bull, Chicken Shed's chief executive, said: "Because we have broken the mould, there is nothing there for us. It's very frustrating."

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A theatre crafts training scheme, which began last year, has been the main casualty of inflexible fund-

respect. We are the oldest souvenir business in London, established since 1928, with a large clientele who were asking for memorials of the Princess.

"We believe we offer tasteful and suitable products. We have made a substantial donation to the memorial fund and sold Eton John's CD *Candle in the Wind* in our stores."

"We don't know what will happen in us in the future, because we are not in control of what laws are going to be made on copyright of the Princess's name and photograph."

His stores offer china trinkets at £1.50, china mugs at up to £4.99 and plates of various sizes that range in price from £1.69 to £18.99.

On market stalls around London yesterday, traders were also selling T-shirts, tea towels, puzzles, framed portraits and ashtrays bearing the same picture of the Princess wearing a tiara and a silver, bejewelled, crown. Traders say there is still an insatiable demand for books and videos about the Princess.



Rosa Monckton has rejected Mohamed Al Fayed's conspiracy theories as cruel and farcical nonsense.

those who manufacture tasteful merchandise, which has the trustees' approval, can continue. And this was never an attempt to censor newspapers and television from using the Princess's image."

Director of Churchill Gifts, which has stores in Oxford Street and Shaftesbury Avenue, London, said: "When the Princess died, we destroyed all our stock at our own expense and did not sell any merchandise for many months out of

director of Churchill Gifts, which has stores in Oxford Street and Shaftesbury Avenue, London, said: "When the Princess died, we destroyed all our stock at our own expense and did not sell any merchandise for many months out of

## Blunkett urges ministers to unite

By JILL SHERMAN

DAVID BLUNKETT yesterday warned ministers that the whispering campaign against some colleagues, including Clare Short and Harriet Harman, risked damaging the Government.

The Education and Employment Secretary, who has taken over much of the "welfare to work" programme from Ms

Harman's department, urged ministers to "pull together" rather than to undermine each other.

In the past few days Ms Short, the International Development Secretary, claimed that her Cabinet colleagues were giving briefings against her, and newspaper reports suggested that Ms Harman was on the point of being sacked from her job as Social Security Secretary. Inter-

viewed on GMTV, Mr Blunkett underlined the seriousness of the Cabinet rift. He said: "I think it damages any Government if there are whispering campaigns about key members of the administration. I think that our job is to pull together to ensure that everybody can play their part." He added: "If you are swimming together you succeed, if you don't you sink together."



Lord Kitchener

### 'We don't need you, Kitchener'

By AUBREY MAGEE

THE memory of Lord Kitchener, whose face dominated First World War recruitment posters above the slogan "Your country needs you", has caused a dispute in the west of Ireland.

Kerry County Council will decide tonight whether to erect two memorial plaques to the British field marshal, who lived in the county until the age of 13. Tim Buckley of Fine Gael wants one at the ruins of Lord Kitchener's home outside Listowel and a second at the rectory of the demolished church in Ballylongford, where he was baptised. "We have a lot of British tourists in the area asking about his life in Kerry," Mr Buckley said.

But protesters say that Kitchener's father, a retired lieutenant colonel, was a cruel landlord who whipped and evicted tenants, and that Kitchener himself had a reputation for cruelty as commander of the British Army during the Boer War.

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16 February 1998

# Evita

Hard Ford on display

## WHEN YOU HAVE ALL

MUSIC AT THE Ultimate Guide

# Evita, the Palace's unwanted visitor

## Richard Ford on diplomatic papers that reveal how Britain tried to snub Argentina's ruthless heroine

THE highest levels of British society were thrown into panic by the possibility of a visit by Eva Perón, secret government files have revealed. Diplomats described the heroine of Argentina as a ruthless, corrupt, ill-spoken and vindictive woman who would be bound to take offence because Britain would not treat her in the manner she demanded.



Bevin: blamed austerity for lack of state visit

Attempts were made to find diplomatic excuses to avoid her having tea with the King and Queen. The Foreign Office urged Argentine diplomats to talk her out of the planned post-war visit and there were fears that she would be booted in the streets because of her political links with Spain's General Franco.

In the end, the charismatic wife of President Juan Perón cut short a European tour before she reached Britain's shores, possibly because she had already found that she did not receive as much adulation as she had come to expect back home.

The alarming spectre of a visit arose in April 1947, just one month after Sir Reginald Leeper, the British Ambassador in Argentina, compiled a damning three-page report on her. Already she had been the mistress of Argentina's postmaster general before marrying Juan Perón in a secret ceremony in 1945.

In Foreign Office papers, released after 50 years and placed in the Public Record Office at Kew, he admitted that his report was on an unusual subject. He recounts her early life and her failure in broadcasting despite the "favours she bestowed on successive directors."

There was reason to believe that her influence was considerable, and that she had set herself to achieve a popularity second only to that of the President. He said: "Senora de Perón has a certain harsh beauty and behind it a ruthless though rather limited intelligence. Her sudden elevation to the position of President's wife has gone to her head. She is easily of-

fended and particularly resents anything that hints at a failure to accept her as a suitable member of polite society; and she is a bad enemy. However unpleasant it may be, we shall be bound to pay some attention to the feelings and influence of this ruthless and unscrupulous woman."

When it was discovered that she planned to visit London after going to see Franco in Spain and the Pope in Rome, Sir Reginald was scathing on being told that she would pay the costs. In a message to the Foreign Office, he said: "Ask how the money ever got into her pockets, because she has been making a great deal by corrupt practices."

Sir Reginald wrote to Sir Orme Sargent at the Foreign Office: "Franco will load her with jewels (for which she has a special weakness) and will make a great fuss of her and she will certainly make foolish speeches."

"I am sure His Majesty's Government would not like such a visit just after she had been feted by Franco. She might easily be booted in the streets. And who would receive her? I don't like a diplomatic problem where a woman is involved."

The Foreign Office suggested that it be put to those close to President Perón that the visit would not be in the interests of his wife or himself, because of the attitude of the Government and the public towards Franco. But the Argentine Minister for Foreign Affairs advised that the lady was "persistent" and unlikely to be put off by so indirect a response.

By the middle of May, alarm bells rang again after the British Embassy was told that the unwanted guest especially wanted to visit King George VI and Queen Elizabeth. The Foreign Office said that such a visit would have to be in a "private capacity."

Diplomats hoped that the visit would coincide with the absence of the King and Queen from London, "so that no question of her being received at the Palace will arise". However, it was learnt that she would be in London



Eva Perón with Franco in 1947: their links made diplomats fear that she would be booted in Britain

after the Royal Family had returned from Sandringham. Instead, they said that she could have tea with the Queen.

When it was discovered that she was being given state receptions in Spain, Italy and France, the Foreign Secretary, Ernest Bevin, tried to assure that she would be treated respectfully in London, and he told the Argentine Ambassador that the King and Queen had agreed to receive her and that various lunches had been arranged. However, he noted: "I told the Ambassador that in these days of

austerity we were simply not having any State visits. There had not been one since 1939."

On July 9, Sir Reginald wrote to Evelyn Shuckburgh, head of the South American department at the Foreign Office: "The problem briefly is that we do not consider it worthwhile injuring our interests here by offending the President's wife because although some may find her simple and charming, she is, in her own country, ill-spoken, pouting, vindictive and exceedingly corrupt."

After visiting the Vatican, Perón went to the Italian Riviera. Then, on July 25, it

was announced that she would not be coming to London after all. In a note, Mr Shuckburgh said that if she had, there would have been demonstrations against her and stoppages at work.

He blamed the cancellation on her worries about the political situation in Argentina, her illness, and a loss of confidence as a result of being unable to speak Italian while in Rome.

"It is not altogether surprising that as soon as she stuck her head out of the hothouse atmosphere of 'hispanidad' she found winds blowing which were too harsh and

cynical for her complexion. I think it is probably fortunate for us that she was not put to the test in England."

A clear reason for the visit was never given but Duff Cooper, Ambassador in Paris, provides, perhaps, one explanation. He wrote: "She is said to feel that the official blessing of His Holiness as well as the head of the Spanish mother country will enable her to outface the Catholic ladies of Argentine society. It seems probable that a similar motive may have been at the back of her wish to be received by the Queen of England."

# Tattooed recruits no longer needle the Army

BY A CORRESPONDENT

WOMEN have taken a hand in changing a military recruiting rule. The Army, pressed to find 22,000 recruits every year, is to ease its ban on people with visible tattoos after discovering that many women wear small designs between the thumb and forefinger.

Until now, tattoos which could be seen on the parade ground — those on hands, wrists, face and neck — have been outlawed. Potential recruits sporting even such benign messages as "Mum", "Dad" and "Love" on their knuckles have been declined entry.

From this month, recruiting officers have been authorised to ignore inoffensive hand tattoos. Women often display swallows or other birds, usually between the thumb and forefinger. The ban on face and neck tattoos remains.

Under the new rules, hand and wrist tattoos must not be obscene, sexist or racist. Words such as "hate" or "war" are banned and so are tattoos which are considered "excessive in size or number".

A senior Army source said: "While we need 15,000 recruits a year, there are only around 115,000 young men and women between the ages of 17 and 24 available in the national pool each year. And we are in competition for those with many other employers."

"Once we have discarded drug abusers and people with criminal records, the pool is even smaller. So we have decided to make things less difficult for ourselves by not foreclosing on too many options."

The Royal Navy, the spiritual home of the tattooed, and the RAF say that they too are reviewing their tattoo policies.

Paul Thorpe, proprietor of a tattoo studio in North Charn, South London, said: "Tattoos, particularly on women, are regarded as extremely trendy. The women thing has really taken off since the Spice Girls and other girl groups came in, and if you look at Top of the Pops on television, about 50 per cent of the girl singers wear tattoos."

### THE LIFE AND THE LEGEND

Maria Eva Duarte, born in 1919, rose from poverty in the Argentine countryside to become the wife of dictator Juan Perón and a legend attracting adulation worldwide 46 years after her death in 1952. The highly successful musical *Evita* by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice retold the romantic stories and scandals surrounding her life and was turned into a £40 million film starring Madonna. Her memory is still so sacred in Argentina that the film caused uproar. She was among the children of a seamstress kept by a wealthy landowner in the 1920s. She made her way to Buenos Aires and in career in show business via the casting couch. She achieved a starring role in a radio soap opera and then launched her future in the career of Colonel Juan Perón, a rising political star. When he became President, she was seen as the heroine of the year, handing out cash and help through charities. When she died from cancer half a million mourners gathered to kiss her coffin, and some had to be restrained from committing suicide.

## WHEN YOU THINK YOU HAVE HEARD IT ALL BEFORE, LISTEN

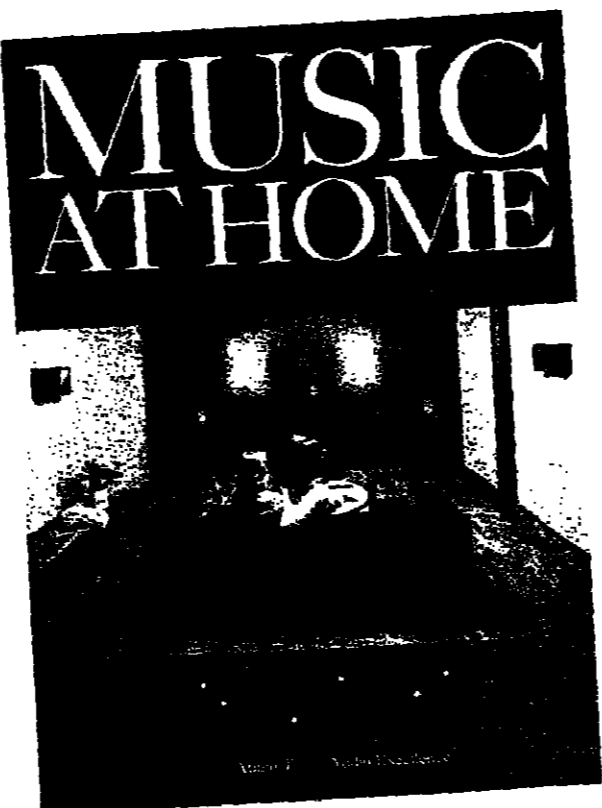
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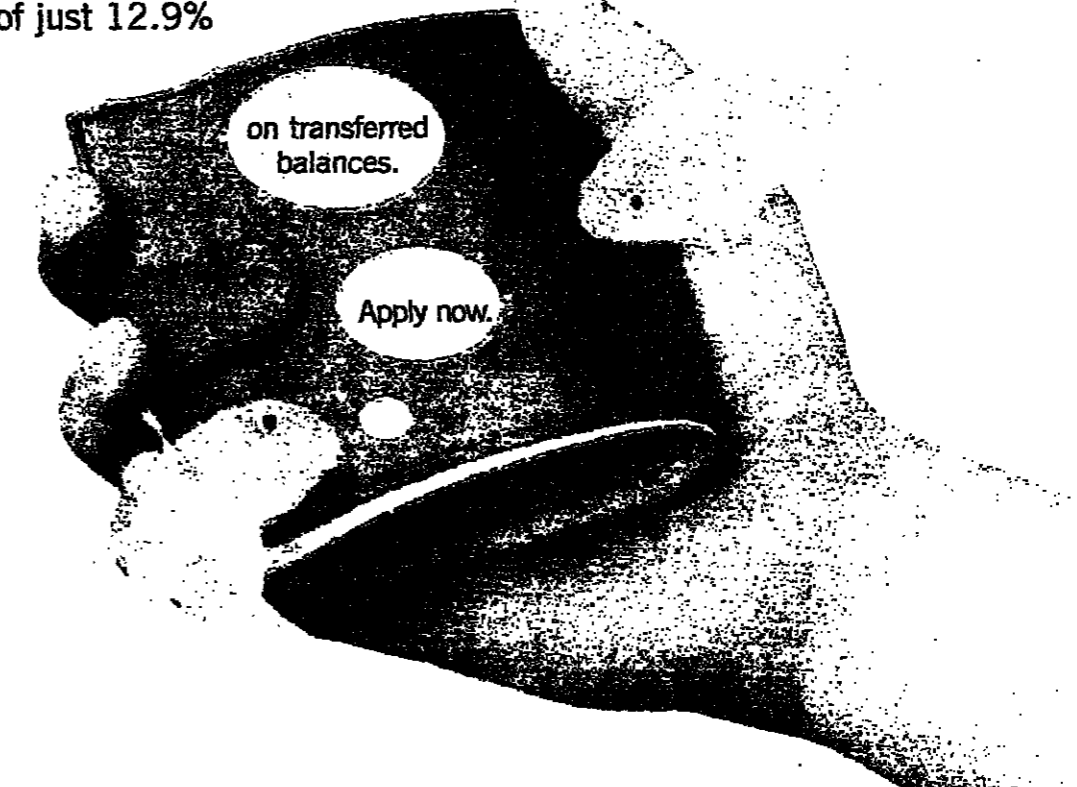


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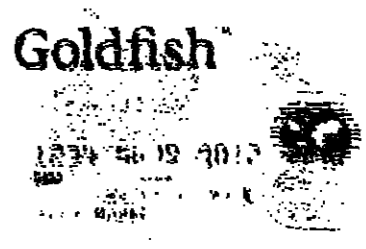
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# Your mortgage and savings working together.

The Rossi family find the two go hand-in-hand like spaghetti and meatballs.



Cambridge restaurateurs, Gino and Daniella Rossi have recently switched to a new Bank of Scotland Personal Choice Mortgage. By combining their savings with the mortgage, they are benefiting from a huge saving in the interest they are paying on their mortgage.

Combining your mortgage with your savings? That might sound like an unusual concept, but consider it for a moment and you'll realise what perfect sense it makes.

### Higher interest on borrowings than savings

Most of us have come to accept the fact that we pay a higher rate of interest on our borrowings than we receive for our savings.

At the moment, for example, the standard variable mortgage rate is substantially higher than what you're likely to be earning on your savings in a building society. You

may then even have to pay tax on the interest on those savings.

### Save money by paying less interest

Quite simply, Personal Choice is designed to make the difference between the lending and savings rates work in your favour. It's effectively

a savings account that pays the same rate of interest as your mortgage.

Working on the principle that it is more cost effective for you to pay off debt than to save money, it follows that you will make the most of your savings by using them to reduce the interest you pay on your mortgage.

- Make the very most of your savings.
- Personalised Cheque Book allowing Instant Access.
- No need to pay tax on your savings interest.
- You don't have to move your current account.
- Enjoy a more flexible mortgage with payment holidays of up to six months.
- Options to overpay and underpay.\*
- Variable rate of 8.69% (9.1% typical APR).
- Provisional approval within minutes.
- Free remortgage package\*\* to cover solicitor's and valuation fees.

### Flexible mortgage

Now this might sound like a complicated notion, but as long as the mortgage is flexible enough to give you access to your savings when you need them then, in practice, there isn't much of a difference from the way you've always done things. Except, of course, you'll have more money.

Like our friends, the Rossi family. Over the years, they had saved up £10,000 in the Building Society to help their daughter, Maria, pay her way through university.

### Instant Access

When they heard about the new Bank of Scotland Personal Choice Mortgage, they were struck by the advantages and switched immediately.

In effect, they had paid off £10,000 of their mortgage overnight, but the great thing is that those savings are still available to them as soon as Maria needs them. Only last week, in fact, they wrote a cheque for £700 to pay for a deposit on her student accommodation.

### So simple

"It did take me a short while to get my head round the idea of this new mortgage," admits Gino, "but the funny thing is it's actually so simple. The most amazing thing is that even though our savings are helping to keep the interest payments down on the mortgage, they are actually even more accessible than they were in the building society. We even have a cheque book that comes with the account."

So how exactly does the Personal Choice Mortgage work? As we've explained, the basic principle is that your savings are used to reduce the interest you pay on your mortgage.

### Maximise your savings

When you pay in additional lump sum payments of £500 or more, interest is recalculated on the reduced mortgage balance so you make immediate interest

savings. Even with regular monthly overpayments, the balance on which interest is calculated is reduced at the end of each month. You can then access those funds any time you like by using a cheque book which is provided.

With no notice period or interest penalties, this is just as easy as withdrawing money from your old savings account. You will have exactly the same security from your savings as you would have with them in a separate account.

### No tax on savings interest

If you don't need to withdraw the money, then it stays in the account working harder than ever. But, unlike a conventional savings account, you won't have to pay tax on the interest.

A Personal Choice Mortgage also gives you the flexibility to choose how much you pay monthly as a regular mortgage payment. You can opt to pay more each month or less when you need to.

### A mortgage with payment holidays

You can even choose to take a payment holiday of up to six months\* or, alternatively, pay over 10 months, instead of 12 each year, giving you the chance to keep a better control over your finances at difficult times of the year such as Christmas or when you splash out for your holidays.

Although, it has to be said that the payment holiday option wasn't of great interest to Gino and Daniella Rossi at present. Not after another successful year with those spicy meatballs going down better than ever in their restaurant!

TIM/16.2

  
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**YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.**



# Patients could carry tiny 'GP' in their body

By Nick Nuttall, Technology Correspondent

TINY microchips could be implanted in the body to monitor people's health and alert them to deficiencies in minerals and proteins, researchers said yesterday.

The devices, called biosensors, would screen the host's blood, fluids and bodily functions and radio the results to a home computer. The host could then be advised to eat an orange, drink a pint of milk or have a steak.

Patients with serious medical conditions, such as diabetes or a heart complaint, could set the system to dial their doctor to request an appointment. In emergencies, it could also call an ambulance, book a hospital bed and advise the next of kin if, for example, blood-sugar levels or heart-beats become dangerously low or irregular.

Modern mobile communications technology means the devices could help pinpoint the position of the host to ambulance staff if they collapsed in the street or crashed a car in a remote area. The

potential of the devices is outlined in a report published today by a think-tank of the Institution of Chemical Engineers.

*Future Life: Engineering Solutions for the Next Generation*, commissioned to mark the institution's 75th anniversary, has won the backing of Tony Blair. He said: "The ideas are not science fiction. They are rather active development and could feasibly be part of the longer, better quality of life and cleaner environment that we all want for the next and successive generations."

Professor John Perkins, head of the Department of Chemical Engineering at Imperial College, London, and a member of the institution's advisory panel, said yesterday that technologies were being developed that were paving the way for the implanted biosensor.

"In Japan they are developing toilets that will analyse your urine and excrement and relay the results to your doc-

tor," he said. "With advances in microanalysis, you can begin to envisage doing these kinds of things inside the body."

He said the computer technology existed to relay signals and information from an implanted device to a computer, or send it down telephone lines. The key was in miniaturising the sensors and making them sensitive enough to detect a wide range of natural substances.

Professor Perkins suggested that people could have more than one sensor implanted for different jobs. One could be in the bloodstream, another in the bladder and one in the mouth.

He said researchers in the university's medical school were looking at the links between trace chemicals in the breath and ailments such as asthma. One could be put in the brain to warn of build-ups of a substance called glutamate, which can trigger headaches and blackouts. Glutamate build-up is also linked to strokes.

One unanswered question is how the implanted biosensors would be powered. Developments in battery technology could mean that they could be remotely rechargeable, meaning the host would not have to carry a battery pack. Alternatively, tiny fuel cells could be implanted too, which could use oxygen and hydrogen from the body to generate electricity and water, which could power the biosensors.

The report also looks forward to supermarkets and corner shops having miniature food-processing plants, allowing shoppers to tailor pre-packed foods to their own tastes or avoid certain ingredients. If more foods were made on-site, it could reduce traffic and pollution.

NOEL HAWKES at the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Philadelphia



Dr Savage-Rumbaugh believes that chimpanzees use branches to signal safe paths through the jungle

## Bog holds 12,000 years of history

A RECORD of the history of the past 12,000 years has been found in a peat bog in Switzerland. The invention of agriculture, the smelting of metals, the rise and fall of Rome, the Industrial Revolution and the dominance of the car are revealed in traces of lead at different levels.

All the lead in the bog, Etang de la Gruère in the Jura mountains, was deposited from the air, William Shotyk, of Berne University, told the meeting. No streams flow through the bog and no trees grow there.

Dr Shotyk and colleagues analysed samples taken from the top to the bottom of the bog, which is about 2ft deep. The lowest lead levels were from 12,000 years ago, deposited from soil blown by the wind.

The first evidence of human intervention came 5,500 years ago, when people tilled the fields, increasing wind-borne soil. A far sharper increase occurred 3,000 years ago, marking the beginning of metal smelting. The isotopes of lead changed from those in soil to those in the lead ores of Spain and Portugal, then beginning to be exploited.

The rise of Rome pushed up lead deposition to 60 times its natural level, but it fell slightly as the Roman Empire in the West collapsed. The next increase came 1,000 years ago, when silver mined in Germany was smelted.

The Industrial Revolution produced a dramatic increase, mostly from burning coal. As coal was replaced by oil this century, lead deposition declined, only to soar after leaded petrol started to be used in the late 1940s.

The peak was reached in 1979, when deposition exceeded the natural rate by 2,000 times. Since then, with the introduction of unleaded petrol, there has been a decline.

## Memo to Cheetah: walk this way

CHIMPANZEES leave each other notes in the vegetation to guide them through the jungle, according to a leading expert in ape communication.

Sue Savage-Rumbaugh, who believes that the ability of apes to communicate with each other has long been underestimated, found the messages during field work in the Congo.

To help them to search for fruit and vegetables, bonobo chimps co-operate, she told the meeting. She believes that they plan their foraging trips through the forest in advance, but are forced to travel in silence because of predators. As a result, they use branches from trees to form direction posts along the route so that small parties travelling separately to the same destination do not get lost. These guides can indicate resting areas,

### A TAIL WORTH REPEATING

A breed of mice which can regrow their tails when they are cut off has raised hopes for regenerating organs in human patients.

The finding was made by accident. Dr Ellen Heber-Katz of the Wistar Institute in Philadelphia said. She was using the mice as a model for studying multiple sclerosis. As a means of distinguishing one

group of mice from another, she asked an assistant to pierce their ears, a standard practice in laboratories. Two weeks later she went to look at the mice and found that the ears appeared perfect. When one centimetre of the animals' tails were cut off, they regrew to three quarters of the original length.

Patrick Gannon, of Mount Sinai Hospital in New York, that chimpanzees have the same asymmetry as humans in the area of the brain used for speech, has reinforced her belief that apes can communicate.

"One of the most important things I have learnt from 20 years of studying apes is that if you talk around them, they understand," she said. "Not everybody can believe that."

"If you put the human ear and the human vocal tract on a chimpanzee, he could talk, too," she said. "Linguists dismiss what apes do, saying there is no evidence. In fact, there is lots of evidence."

Dr Savage-Rumbaugh communicates with her apes by talking to them, and by allowing them to reply in "sentences" by touching a keyboard with keys carrying a series of symbols.

**HEALTH: THE INSIDE STORY**

They biosensors in the body monitor health and alert host to problems

Implanted devices relay information to home-based computer...

... which automatically contacts a doctor or even the next of kin

Mind & Matter, page 15

# navigat e

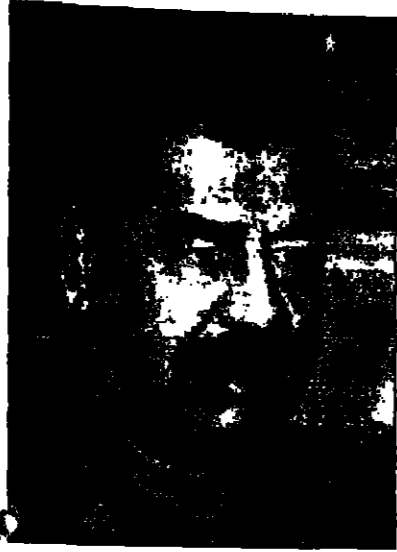
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# Brutal childhood paved way for Godfather's killing games



Saddam: first murder at 15

IF I had a time machine, I would turn the dial to an evening in 1975 in Baghdad and watch President Saddam Hussein puffing his cigar over dishes of hommous and olives as he steadily outdrank a group of drink-hardened journalists.

I was the youngest among them and did not pick up all of the clues that would have pointed to a day in February 1998, when President Clinton manoeuvred himself into the quicksands of Middle East politics. Saddam's boasts of conquests over his enemies, fuelled by bottles of Black Label whisky, have all come horribly true.

Today the West finds itself faced with a peculiar logic: no attack means a victory parade in Baghdad. Smart bombs could mark the end of the UN weapons inspectors' missions and prompt Arabs to march singing Saddam's praises, while CNN screens display burnt bodies of women and children to a world audience. If the cruise missiles spare the civilians,

Adel Darwish examines the character of the Iraqi leader, whom he met in 1975 when Saddam was already a hard-drinking murderer who demanded unquestioning loyalty

Saddam would not shy from bombing his own hospitals to create the same effect.

I could see it from my time machine 20-odd years ago, observing the poker face of Mr Deputy — as Saddam was known then — over endless rounds of whisky, boasting about putting the Kurds' orchards and villages to the torch. The man was the personification of Michael Corleone, the character played by Al Pacino in Francis Ford Coppola's film, *The Godfather*.

In March 1990, Margaret Thatcher appealed to Saddam to pardon Farzad Bazofi, the *Observer* reporter who was wrongly accused of spying. "The English Prime Minister

wanted the spy," said Saddam in a speech. "She will have him all right," pausing to puff on his cigar. Then he exhorted, adding "in a box." Nine hours later, the First Secretary of the British Embassy in Baghdad was signing for the box containing the body of Bazofi, whose hanging he had to watch.

In 1975, Saddam ordered the killing of his own brother-in-law, minutes after assuring his sister that he would never make her a widow. "Once loyalty to the family and its head is in doubt, then the life of the individual concerned becomes worthless," Saddam said.

At a private screening of *The Long Days*, a film depicting his life, Saddam

lectured the selected guests. This time we sat at the end of a 30ft table as he suddenly appeared, flanked by his bodyguards at the other end after a brief blackout. Referring to his then prosperous subjects, he said: "All Iraqis are one family and I am the [god] father; any form of dissent or opposition is an act of treason."

Saddam's childhood was miserable: his stepfather was brutal and illiterate and denied him education and forced him to work as a farm-hand from the age of five. Teased about his mother's reputation, the eight-year-old Saddam learnt to walk the village dirt streets with an iron bar, making him more than a match for a boy of 16. He was barely 15 when he helped his uncle to murder a local rival, and started his own killing at the age of 19. He grew to regard killing as a normal profession. He would excuse himself in the middle of a game of dominoes, disappearing for a while, to

carry out a killing for the Baath Party, reappearing to continue the game.

By the 1980s Saddam had matured from a hired gun into a mass murderer. His gang of assassins — all thugs, psychopaths and killers from his own clan — became the core of a special security apparatus that he moulded in the 1960s along the lines of the Nazi SS. They now number more than 15,000.

Saddam, as a megalomaniac despot, sees the West's democracy as a weakness from which he gains strength. He gains from the martyrdom of his people and calculates that dead civilians or, worse, body bags coming home are too much of a gamble for Mr Clinton and Tony Blair. Saddam's gambit is that his opponents do not have the stomach to fight him to his death. He relishes the belief that he is winning this game of brinkmanship.

Adel Darwish is the author of *Unholy Babylon: The Secret History of Saddam's War*.

## Fear of losing TV war hobbles the Pentagon

By BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON AND MICHAEL EVANS DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE American military assets deployed to the Gulf are now in place and ready for launching an attack on Iraq, should the diplomatic efforts fail to persuade President Saddam Hussein to back down over United Nations weapons inspections.

The last elements of the firepower build-up, including six more F117 Stealth fighters, arrived in Kuwait over the weekend and are now primed for action.

However, military experts in Washington claimed yesterday that the planning for an attack was clouded by indecision because of confusion over the goals and a fear of killing civilians.

The first hours of a military attack on Iraq would be almost identical to Desert Storm, the experts said. But the lack of international support for the US-British action, and the fear of losing the "propaganda war" as bodies of dead Iraqis were pulled

### MILITARY STRATEGY

from the rubble in front of the world's television cameras, had hampered the Pentagon in its planning beyond the first few days.

The bombing campaign, lasting two to five days, would involve up to 300 daily sorties, a third the rate of the 1991 Gulf War, officials said. This time US commanders have only about 350 aircraft, a tenth of the force deployed seven years ago.

However, with diplomacy now approaching the final stages, it can only be a matter of days before President Clinton has to decide whether to turn to the military option.

The key assets in the American arsenal are the 1,000-mile-range Tomahawk cruise missiles, the F117 Stealth fighters, the B52 strategic bombers and laser-guided bombs including the GBU28 bunker-busting deep-penetration weapon that can pass through several layers of concrete before detonating.

The Americans also have

small bombs that can be targeted at suspected chemical and biological laboratories, creating such intense heat that they can destroy deadly toxic materials.

The main concern for the American and British pilots preparing for attacks on Iraq is that Saddam has rebuilt his country's air defence network which is now fully integrated and capable of posing a serious threat to allied aircraft, with both anti-aircraft artillery and surface-to-air missiles.

However, the first airstrikes would be aimed at reducing Iraq's air defence threat, using Harm anti-radar missiles and other weapons to suppress key air defence sites.

George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, said on BBC's *Breakfast with Frost* yesterday: "What we would do would be proportionate, and designed to reduce his [Saddam's] military capability, and especially his capability to deploy weapons of mass destruction."

Robin Renwick, page 20  
Letters, page 21

**ROYAL NAVY IN THE GULF**

- 1 Carrier HMS *Invincible* (R08)
- 1 Frigate HMS *Conway* (F80)
- 1 Frigate HMS *Northampton* (F81)
- 1 Frigate HMS *Wendell* (F82)
- 1 Frigate HMS *Wendell* (F83)
- 1 Frigate HMS *Wendell* (F84)
- 1 Frigate HMS *Wendell* (F85)
- 1 Frigate HMS *Wendell* (F86)
- 1 Frigate HMS *Wendell* (F87)
- 1 Frigate HMS *Wendell* (F88)
- 1 Frigate HMS *Wendell* (F89)
- 1 Frigate HMS *Wendell* (F90)

**US NAVY IN THE GULF**

- 1 Carrier USS *Enterprise* (CVN-65)
- 1 Carrier USS *Nimitz* (CVN-68)
- 1 Carrier USS *Ronald Reagan* (CVN-76)
- 1 Carrier USS *Abraham Lincoln* (CVN-72)
- 1 Carrier USS *John F Kennedy* (CVN-74)
- 1 Carrier USS *George Washington* (CVN-73)
- 1 Carrier USS *John C Stennis* (CVN-75)
- 1 Carrier USS *John S McCain* (CVN-77)
- 1 Carrier USS *John A Sledge* (CVN-78)
- 1 Carrier USS *John B Stennis* (CVN-79)
- 1 Carrier USS *John H Stennis* (CVN-80)
- 1 Carrier USS *John L Stennis* (CVN-81)
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- 1 Carrier USS *John N Stennis* (CVN-83)
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- 1 Carrier USS *John P Stennis* (CVN-85)
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- 1 Carrier USS *John S Stennis* (CVN-88)
- 1 Carrier USS *John T Stennis* (CVN-89)
- 1 Carrier USS *John U Stennis* (CVN-90)

**US MILITARY SEALIFT COMMAND FORCES IN THE GULF**

- 1 Command ship USS *San Antonio* (T-ESB-9)
- 1 Command ship USS *San Antonio* (T-ESB-10)
- 1 Command ship USS *San Antonio* (T-ESB-11)
- 1 Command ship USS *San Antonio* (T-ESB-12)
- 1 Command ship USS *San Antonio* (T-ESB-13)
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- 1 Command ship USS *San Antonio* (T-ESB-15)
- 1 Command ship USS *San Antonio* (T-ESB-16)
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12 POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

# MPs seek inquiry into Lord Irvine's expensive tastes

By Jill Sherman, Chief Political Correspondent

TORY MPs called yesterday for a parliamentary investigation into claims that the Lord Chancellor is to furnish his official residence with £145,000 worth of carpets, curtains and upholstery and to spend £140,000 on furniture and works of art.



Irvine: he has spent £65,000 on wallpaper

John Redwood, the Shadow Industry Secretary, has called for an immediate audit of spending on official residences and other Tory backbenchers are demanding that Lord Irvine of Lairg's spending is referred to the Public Accounts Committee. The committee is entitled to investigate whether government money is being spent effectively.

The total cost of Lord Irvine's residence has been estimated at £650,000. Details of the first £300,000 have already been published, showing that £65,000 was spent on wallpaper.

But yesterday it emerged that unpublished papers held by a House of Lords committee show that Lord Irvine, who once likened himself to Cardinal Wolsey, had also ordered two beds costing £8,000, a dining table to seat ten costing £25,000 and silk upholstery costing up to £200 per metre. A carpet is said to have been ordered for an estimated £20,000, or £100 per square metre.

"Parliament should make

inquiries into how much money is being spent and what it is being spent on, to show whether the taxpayer has got value for money," Mr Redwood said as he called for an audit of all official residences.

Mr Redwood is also demanding an inquiry into allegations that contractors carrying out the refurbishment have been asked to sign the Official Secrets Act, preventing them from giving details of the household items. He said it would be normal for contractors to agree not to reveal security arrangements, but that this should not extend to fixtures and fittings.

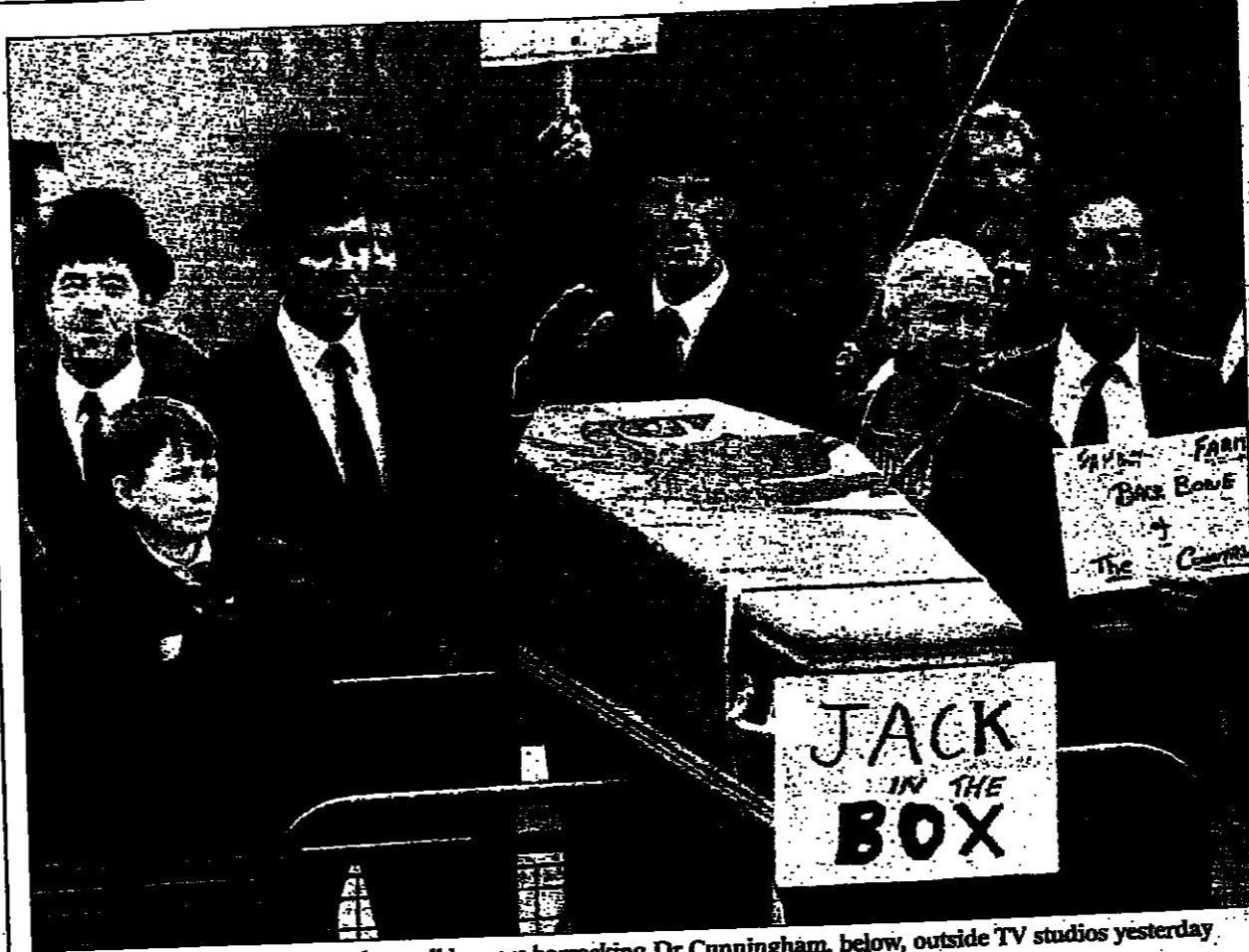
course security information should not be divulged, but they should not be able to suppress information to the taxpayer about decorating costs.

The Lord Chancellor's Department was unable to confirm the breakdown of costs, but emphasised that all the estimates had been approved by three House of Lords committees: the administrative and works committee, the finance and staff committee and the officers committee. All three have representatives from both sides of the House of Lords and crossbenchers.

The department also pointed out that the official residence would be opened to the public on occasions and the pictures and sculptures would be able to use the rooms to host functions from March.

The curtain fabrics and upholstery are all in the style of the Victorian designer Augustus Pugin, and have been ordered from the Humphries Weaving Company in Essex. Three chaise longue, two wardrobes, chairs and a sideboard all in Pugin style have also been set aside for the Lord Chancellor.

Lord Irvine has already defended the work as part of a rolling ten-year programme ordered by an internal Lords committee.



Welsh beef farmers dressed as pall-bearers barracking Dr Cunningham, below, outside TV studios yesterday

## Minister refuses to lie down in wake of farmers' protest



FARMERS protesting over the beef crisis booed Jack Cunningham, the Agriculture Minister, when he arrived for a television appearance yesterday.

About 70 farmers escorted a black coffin, labelled "Jack in the box", as they picketed the studios of London Weekend Television in protest at the Government's handling

of BSE. In an interview on Jonathan Dimbleby, Dr Cunningham came under renewed pressure to scrap the ban on bone-in beef. But he insisted the restriction was necessary to protect the public against the small risk of contracting new-variant CJD. He said the suggestion that the Government was running a nanny state was "a

convenient criticism of the Government which is coming from our political opponents". Scientists at Birmingham University have been given £361,000 by the Government-backed Medical Research Council to develop medication that will slow the effects of CJD and improve the quality of life for sufferers.

## SNP alone to fight ban on foreign donations

By Valerie Elliott, Whitehall Editor

THE Scottish National Party is to fight moves to outlaw foreign donations - the only party to do so.

With several thousand expatriate Scots worldwide and many foreign nationals claiming Scottish roots, the SNP has decided to take a hard line against the Neill inquiry into party political funding. SNP supporters overseas contribute regularly to the party and some are clearly hoping that they might gain Scottish citizenship if Scotland ever became independent. A senior Tory source suggested last week that many foreigners might also wish to back the SNP for future influence over North Sea oil.

It also emerged last night that the SNP was one of three parties which have failed to meet the deadline to provide details of party political donations over the past five years. The others are Sinn Fein and the Democratic Unionist parties, which were unavailable for comment last night.

Lord Neill, QC, the public standards watchdog, asked all parties to make their submissions by January 31 and to include a breakdown of sums received from overseas. Other detailed views on the future of party funding are to be submitted by the end of this month. But feelings in the SNP have been running so high that last week its treasurer, Kenny MacAskill, informed the inquiry that the party would not be providing details of donations.

The SNP reaction so alarmed officials that they prepared a brief for Lord Neill on his return at the weekend from visits to Germany and Sweden, where he was studying state funding of parties. There was particular concern because Lord Neill's committee is an advisory body and cannot legally force parties to cooperate.

Mr MacAskill was not available for comment last night. However, it appeared likely last night that he had misunderstood the SNP response to the inquiry. Mike Russell, the party's chief executive, said last night that the SNP hoped to provide all details of donations by the end of this week. It would also apologise to Lord Neill for the delay.

However, Mr Russell accepted the strong feelings in the party on the subject of the inquiry. Mr Russell said last night: "We really believe this whole problem is one for the Tories and Labour and it has nothing to do with the SNP."

# Blair recruits Treasury insider to the No 10 team

Gordon Brown's chaps think he's their mole in Downing Street. Valerie Elliott is not so sure

SUSPICIONS that the Prime Minister wants more control over Gordon Brown after hiccups in their relationship have been increased by the arrival at No 10 of one of the Treasury's highest flyers. Jeremy Heywood, who is in mid-thirties, has a First from Hertford College, Oxford, and was dubbed "the real Chancellor" when he served under Norman Lamont, is giving Mr

Blair expert guidance on goings-on at the Treasury in his role as private secretary in charge of the economic and domestic brief. Mr Blair was not happy with the way Mr Brown handled the row over lone-parent benefits, the announcement of policy on the single currency, and the introduction of new savings accounts. Mr Heywood's expertise, it

is argued, will ensure that the vital relationship between No 10 and No 11 will work more smoothly. It is even said that Mr Heywood, with his knowledge of what is going on at the Treasury, will act as Mr Blair's eyes and ears. He could turn out to be for Mr Blair what the economist Sir Alan Walters was for Margaret Thatcher. They tell a different story in

the Treasury. There, they describe the slim, trendy, workaholic as "our man in No 10". Indeed, someone in Mr Heywood's position would expect, after a period working for the Prime Minister, to return to the Treasury in a very senior role. Mr Blair, however, is deeply impressed by Mr Heywood and is promoting him at No 10. He is soon to become

the Prime Minister's Principal Private Secretary, which will give him vast influence across government. He will work with Jonathan Powell, the Downing Street chief of staff, but will be a key link with senior officials in all departments. His duties will include liaison with the opposition parties, and Buckingham Palace.

It is understood that he will take on the wider duties when John Holmes, who is seconded from the Foreign Office to No 10 as Principal Private Secretary, takes up his next posting abroad. Senior officials are delighted with the appointment, which was agreed with Lord Butler, the recently retired Cabinet Secretary, and believe it shows "quiet recognition" from Mr Blair that he needs a substantial Treasury civil servant and policy-fixer. It is said by officials that,

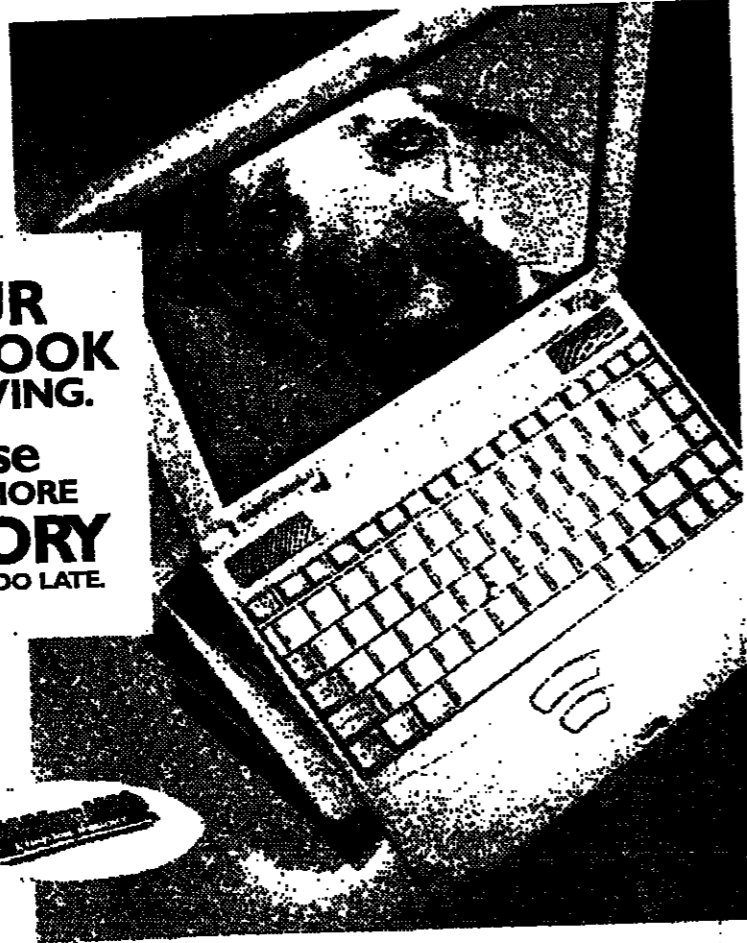


Background figure: Jeremy Heywood with Hague and Lamont outside the Treasury in 1992

had such a man with "instinctive Whitehall nous" been there in the autumn, Mr Blair would never have been involved in meeting Bernie Ecclestone, the Formula One chief and a million-pound donor to the Labour Party, or

so directly caught up in the controversy over exempting Formula One from tobacco sponsorship. One official said of Mr Heywood: "He will become very powerful and relied on by Mr Blair to be the wise head."

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## Relatives of dead fans ready to sue police

By Jill Sherman

THE families of football fans who died in the Hillsborough disaster said yesterday that they would take out a private prosecution against police officers in charge at the ground if Jack Straw ruled out a fresh public inquiry this week.

The Home Secretary will make a Commons statement on Wednesday in response to an investigation by Lord Justice Stuart-Smith into further evidence surrounding the 1989 tragedy, which claimed 96 lives. But Mr Straw is expected to tell MPs that the investigation, which includes new video and medical evidence, sheds little further light on events and does not warrant a new public inquiry.

The 1989 Taylor report blamed the "failure of police control", but an attempt to bring disciplinary action against two senior officers was dropped and the inquest returned a verdict of accidental death. Yesterday members of the Family Support Group alleged that their evidence showed police officers had lied to try to escape blame.

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THE PERSONAL NUMBER

# The City gives Kohl freedom to bridge chasm of misunderstanding

Conversation between the English and the Germans is rarely spiced with controversy. There is a courtly avoidance of polemic; we agree that the French are impossible, that the world is too doped and too dumb and, retaining our composure, we sometimes agree to disagree.

How deep though is our mutual understanding? Austen Chamberlain advised that with the French you begin by disagreeing and then find much in common; with the Germans initial contact is benign but one quickly strays into the undergrowth: com-

## INSIDE GERMANY



BY ROGER BOYES

munication becomes tangled, the substance elusive. Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, will unwittingly

reinforce this view when he comes to London this week. He is being awarded the freedom of the City and will use the occasion to urge Britain to jump on the euro train (I picture the scene as a hobo, a bottle of meads in one pocket, making a stumbling run for the last carriage).

The Chancellor likes the City, and not only because his son works there. It is the City, he tells anyone who will listen, that will deliver Britain. Federalist phrases have been banished at least from the early draft of the *Goldhall* speech and he sets out the pragmatic, mercantil-

ist case for Europe. Herr Kohl is ready to sell Europe to Britain on British terms. Then he has to go home and work out how to sell Europe to German voters. Salesmanship, in other words, has replaced the grand shining dreams. The idea that a bridge could be built between the British and German concepts of Europe has long since been abandoned.

Mitsuko Uchida, the Japanese pianist and a shrewd observer of the Bonn scene, thinks it was ever thus: the British and the Germans are chalk and cheese, she writes in the current issue of *Pros-*

pect magazine. There was never any chance that we would agree. The British are seafarers, the Germans are forest-dwellers. The British crave risk, the Germans security: the latest election poster has a picture of the Chancellor and the slogan: *Today Secure the Future*, which links an implicit call for present sacrifice with fear of tomorrow).

Ms Uchida is too elegant a writer to compile checklists so, distilling her wisdom, I will do so on her behalf. A sketchy catalogue of contrast-

ing national characteristics and characters would look something like this: Britain: Admirals, creative disorder, financiers, Jane Austen, the bookie, pragmatists, optimists. Germany: Generals, Keep off the Grass, engineers, Thomas Mann, the insurance rep, idealists, pessimists.

Naturally Britain has had talented generals; naturally North Germans have a seafaring tradition, but the stereotypes broadly hold. If Ms Uchida were a diplomat, she would be regarded as a

heretic. It is deemed incorrect to talk of European peoples as being fundamentally different. In modern diplomacy all differences are supposed to be relative.

British policy in Europe is to loosen the Franco-German axis by developing strong separate relationships with Paris and Bonn. If we really inhabit different philosophical planets — and I'm coming round to the Uchida view — then Britain and Germany have to develop a different form of discourse. There is no point in talking in European councils about dramatic new Anglo-German initiatives on

deregulation when Bonn simply means that it intends to keep its shops open until four o'clock on Saturday afternoons. That is how a relationship — and language — becomes debased.

I can think of a dozen ways of giving flesh to our relations. Why not set up an Anglo-German know-how fund for Central Europe? Why not jointly prepare Eastern candidates for the European Union? But please, no more interplanetary talking shops in which our differences are either camouflaged or caricatured.

## Red rose ousts the hammer and sickle

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

ITALY'S former Communists have dropped the hammer and sickle emblem, the last vestige of their former link to the now defunct Soviet Union.

The Italian Communist Party (PCI) transformed itself into the social democratic Party of the Democratic Left (PDS) after the fall of the Berlin Wall eight years ago, and adopted the oak tree as its new symbol. But it kept the hammer and sickle in a corner of the party flag, even after winning the 1996 elections as the core of the Olive Tree Centre-Left coalition led by Professor Romano Prodi.

To the strains of Sting and Peter Gabriel, rather than the *Internationale*, Massimo D'Alema, the PDS leader, announced that the hammer and sickle would give way to a Labour Party-style red rose alongside the oak tree.

Signor D'Alema who was addressing a three-day conference of Italian left-wing parties which ended at the weekend in Florence, indicated that he hoped the PDS would absorb groups which once belonged to the Italian Socialist Party (PSI), which was once led by Bettino Craxi, the now disgraced and exiled former Italian Prime Minister.

Some PDS leaders, however, including Walter Veltroni, the Deputy Prime Minister, believe the PDS should instead be seeking a merger with the left of the former Christian Democrats, which is also part of the Olive Tree coalition.

Signor D'Alema's ultimate aim is said to be the creation of a homogeneous left-wing party, akin to the British Labour Party, to complete the realignment which followed the collapse of the Christian Democrats in a welter of corruption scandals in 1992.

## Aid agencies say Cook arms code is sham

ROBIN COOK'S vaunted new ethical common arms export policy has been denounced as a hollow sham by Britain's leading aid agencies on the eve of its presentation to Britain's European partners.

The proposed European Code of Conduct on the arms trade, which the Government has billed as a major achievement of its European Union presidency, is inadequate, contains serious loopholes and falls short of its aim of setting high common standards governing arms exports, according to Oxfam, Amnesty International, Saferworld and the British American Security Information Council. The agencies, which have published a leaked copy of the proposed code, list five serious shortcomings which they say will make it ineffective. These are:

- That the human rights guidelines would allow exports of repressive equipment, even to repressive regimes, if it is for the protection of security forces.
- There is a complete absence of any provision for parliamentary scrutiny and transparency.
- The proposed guidelines will allow one EU country to undercut the export bid of another virtually in secret without the knowledge of most other EU members.
- There is no common "end-use" system to prevent exports being diverted to war zones.
- There is nothing to stop arms brokering, such as that carried out by British and French companies that contributed to the 1994 genocide in Rwanda.

The code, based on the new criteria for arms exports that Labour announced in July,

### Proposed rules of export under fire from lobby groups, writes Michael Binyon

will be discussed for the first time by EU governments in Brussels tomorrow.

The four agencies, which lobbied Labour to introduce the code, say that the guidelines governing human rights, development and regional security are not tough enough.

They say that the British guidelines have still allowed 22 new export licences to be granted to Indonesia for equipment including bombs, ammunition and surveillance equipment. In addition, 86 licences have been approved to Turkey for weapons which include snipers' rifles, mortars and armoured vehicles.

"Unless the loopholes are closed and extra measures like increased parliamentary scrutiny are added, the code will not be effective," said Paul Eavis, director of Saferworld, a lobbying group for international security. He called on EU governments to act now to make the code something of which the British presidency could be proud.

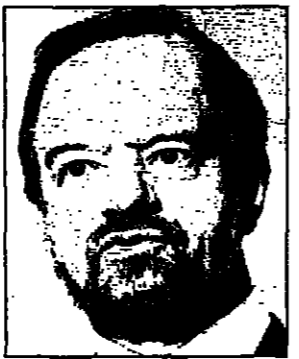
Sceptics forecast months ago that it would be difficult to encourage all governments to enforce restrictions on the export of arms and ammunition, and even more difficult to stop one country taking a contract that had been refused a licence in another.

The proposed declaration commits EU states to the "maintenance of a strong defence industry", saying that exports can contribute to collective security. All EU states agree to circulate among each other the details of licences refused, but the decision to turn down the transfer of any item will remain at the national discretion of each member state. They would keep such refusals and consultations confidential.

A licence should be refused if it is inconsistent with any international arms embargo; if it runs counter to nuclear, biological and chemical weapons conventions or regimes controlling missile technology; and if it contravenes the ban on anti-personnel landmines.

States will take into account respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in recipient countries, and will not issue a licence if there is a "clearly identifiable risk" that the proposed export might be used for internal repression.

EU countries would also not allow exports that would prolong existing conflict or be used other than for legitimate defence and security needs.



Cook's weapons policy comes under fire



A hunter with a live potential target on his hat joins the Paris demonstration to save the sport. Several thousand hunters from all over the country took part

## French hunters target minister

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

A PACK of hounds, a single wild boar and 150,000 hunters converged on Paris at the weekend to protest over European Union regulations limiting the wildfowl hunting season in France.

The demonstration, the largest for many years, was a vivid display of clout by the powerful French hunting lobby before regional elections next month. The lone boar, a sow called Madama, looked understandably nervous at the head of the four-mile unbroken procession of hunters, determined to protect their right to kill her and almost every other species of wild animal.

French hunters are up in arms over EU legislation aimed at protecting migratory birds, such as geese and ducks, during breeding periods by limiting the hunting season. In France, the season ended this year on January 31, a month earlier than usual, and will resume in September rather than July.

The demonstrators also declared "open season" on Dominique Voynet, the French Environment Minister and head of the Green Party. An outspoken conservationist and pro-European, Mme Voynet has vowed to extend wildlife preserves and use EU legislation to restrict traditional rights to pursue game over private property.

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## Italian alert over Aids prostitute

BY RICHARD OWEN

A PROSTITUTE who offered unprotected sex to clients in resorts on the Adriatic Riviera knew she was dying of Aids, and may have deliberately infected numerous clients over the past two years, Italian police said yesterday.

Police said they believed as many as 5,000 men and women needed to undergo health checks and named the prostitute as Giuseppina Barberi, 49, a resident of Lido di Dante, a seaside resort near Ravenna.

Police said Signora Barberi, who is now in hospital under police guard, had continued to offer sex to customers after she was declared HIV positive in November 1996. Aids was later diagnosed. Vittorio Vicini, the Ravenna public prosecutor, said revenge could not be ruled out as a motive.

Police said the woman had attracted clients by letting it be known that she was willing to offer sex without condoms. She and her partner, Fernando Pognani, 53, had organised orgies at their rundown villa. Signor Pognani has been arrested for "knowingly helping to spread an epidemic", a criminal offence in Italy.

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# Montserrat threat to flood dole queues

A DAY after Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, left the shores of Montserrat its Chief Minister warned Whitehall that the islanders would not accept any further delays or excuses in resolving the crisis following the volcanic eruptions last year.

David Brandt said the Government risked creating a "dependency syndrome" with islanders flooding British dole queues, unless swift action was taken to complete long-promised housing projects. He urged Mr Cook to raise the issue with the Prime Minister.

"Money should be spent on the people: there is no excuse, no reason and no logic why people should live like they do," he said yesterday. "I hope that a difference is made as a result of his visit, a difference that should be demonstrated on the ground."

During a less than six-hour tour of the tiny British dependency on Saturday, Mr Cook reaffirmed Britain's commitment to the future, citing £51 million in promised funds, and denied that Whitehall had a secret agenda to depopulate Montserrat.

"Would I be here as the first Foreign Secretary to visit Montserrat if I was secretly planning to close this place down," said Mr Cook. "It would be a preposterous political way to behave."

Mr Cook gave Mr Brandt a

**Islanders are losing patience. Tom Rhodes reports from Montserrat**

personal assurance that he would ask the Department for International Development to purchase 90 acres of new land in the island's northern safe zone that could then be bought by those made homeless by the volcano.

But many Montserratians were more interested in the latest cricket Test match than what some saw as just another publicity stunt.

Inside the shelter at Salem, Lucretia Blake, 53, made homeless more than two years earlier when Chances Peak first erupted after being dormant for four centuries, told Mr Cook that she had been promised a new home by Prince Andrew and numerous other British dignitaries who have visited Montserrat since 1995.

"I am glad he came," she said later. "But we've seen so many promises and nothing ever comes of it. Why can't the British Government just build us some more homes now, not

tomorrow." At the hospital, formerly a school, Mr Cook found a skeleton staff. Most of the island's nurses left long ago. And inside the new secondary school, a collection of temporary buildings which opened in January, the Foreign Secretary heard that only 180 of the original 1,000 pupils remained. The number of teachers has shrunk from 60 to 24.

In the end, Mr Cook, whose Foreign Office budget for aid is a fraction of the amount overseen by Clare Short, the International Development Secretary, brought with him only a symbolic £78,000 from Britain: ten new temporary structures for the library and ten new computers for the school.

Although he emphasised that a new department for British overseas territories had now been set up under Baroness Symons, members of the Montserrat Government pointed out the body had no budget of its own and responsibility for funding still remained with Ms Short. Ms Short has still refused to visit Montserrat and is not popular on the island.

"I think we trust Mr Cook to do what he can and Baroness Symons is our friend, but I am sure Clare Short is the reason that money is always held up, and that still makes us uncertain," said a senior minister.



Actress Sharon Stone, 39, and Phil Bronstein, 47, a San Francisco newspaper editor, were married during a Valentine party at her home in Beverly Hills at the weekend

# Bomb attacks herald start of Indian election



FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN LUCKNOW  
INDIA'S election spectacle begins today, with security forces on full alert after a bungled attempt to assassinate a leading Hindu nationalist politician. Two fundamentalist Muslim organisations were declared illegal within hours of the attack, which was evidently carried out by professionals with sophisticated explosives. Six bombs went off simultaneously at different locations in the southern Indian city of

Coimbatore, killing 33 people and injuring scores. One bomb was placed at an election rally where Lal Krishna Advani, president of the hardline Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), should have been speaking. He was saved because his flight was delayed by three hours. The atrocity has raised fears of an anti-Muslim backlash by Hindu extremists, who last went on the rampage in 1993, killing or wounding hundreds of Muslims. Several hundred million people out of a population of

600 million will be eligible to vote today in the first of four days of polling. The election has to be staggered to allow security forces to move across the country to try to quell violence and stop the practice of "booth capturing" by politicians' paid thugs. The election, devoid of any real issues, is essentially a battle between Hindu revivalists and traditional secular forces that fear the introduction of *Hindutva*, translating roughly as Hinduism. It is primarily articulated by hardline members of the BJP,

which is set substantially to increase its share of the vote compared with the 1996 poll. It could, according to opinion polls, emerge as the single biggest party, trailed by the Congress Party and the coalition United Front. Congress and the United Front might bury their mutual antagonism to form a Government in order to halt the BJP, whose ranks include members of violent Hindu organisations against Muslims. India's 130 million Muslims are apprehensive about the

election. BJP favours scrapping Muslim family law in favour of a uniform civil code, a move that would outlaw fundamental, if controversial, traditions of Indian Muslims. Lack of leadership has left India's Islamic community politically weak and under-represented in most centres of power. Syad Kalbe Jawad, a Shia *maulana* (religious leader) in Lucknow, said that "people with vested interests" have conspired for decades to keep the Muslims divided, in case they obtained economic and political influence.

## WORLD IN BRIEF

### Lewinsky 'hid in Clinton study'

Washington: Monica Lewinsky allegedly told her former friend Linda Tripp that she hid in the President's study off the Oval Office, waiting to perform oral sex, while Mr Clinton talked next door with President Zedillo of Mexico, according to *Newsweek* magazine. Ms Lewinsky also sent e-mails to Ms Tripp complaining that "The Big Creep", as she is said to refer to Mr Clinton, did not call her on Valentine's Day last year (Brownwen Maddox writes). The revelations come from e-mails recorded on Ms Tripp's computer at the Pentagon and seized by FBI agents.

### Petrol trains in collision

Yaounde: The death toll from an inferno after two petrol tanker trains collided in the Cameroon capital of Yaounde rose to 120. More than 150 people suffered burns when a cigarette apparently ignited petrol spilling from the tankers as crowds tried to collect the fuel. (Reuters)

### Clerides victory signalled

Nicosia: Glafcos Clerides, the Cypriot President, has won reelection with 51 per cent of the vote, defeating George Iacovou in the run-off, according to an early exit poll. Greek Cypriot parties were said to have flown in about 10,000 expatriate voters from Britain, Greece and Russia. (Reuters - AFP)

### Algerian massacre toll rises

Paris: Suspected Muslim terrorists killed 36 Algerian civilians in a series of attacks coinciding with a military offensive against rebels on the outskirts of Algiers, officials and media reported. Many of the victims had their throats cut. Soldiers were said to be hunting the killers, three of whom were shot dead. (Reuters)

### De Klerk plans to divorce

Johannesburg: Former President F.W. de Klerk, right, has announced he is to divorce his wife, Marike, after 39 years of marriage just two weeks after he revealed he had fallen in love with the wife of a Greek shipping magnate (Inigo Gilmore writes). Mr de Klerk, 61, announced his relationship with Elita Georgiadis, 45, the wife of shipping magnate Tony Georgiadis, last month. Friends of the family say that Mr Georgiadis is refusing to divorce his wife.



### Bus blast kills 16 in China

Beijing: A bus blast killed 16 people and wounded 30 in the central Chinese city of Wuhan could have been caused by a bomb, the *Guangzhou Daily* said. A Hong Kong-based human rights group said residents believed a bomb was planted either by sacked state employees or Uighur separatists. (Reuters)

### Belgians in child-sex protest

Brussels: Some 20,000 people marched here yesterday demanding politicians give Belgians better law enforcement and government. Protesters said no progress has been made to revamp the country's fragmented police forces after at least four girls died in a child sex ring that came to light in mid-1996. (AP)

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# Rainmaker with his head in the clouds

Critics dismissed Graeme Mather's attempts to make clouds rain. But now recent experiments appear to have vindicated him. Anjana Ahuja reports

Dr Graeme Mather lived his life with his head in the clouds. Against the advice of almost everybody else in the meteorological community, the Canadian scientist devoted his professional life to trying to make clouds rain. In the 1970s, he took money from a tobacco co-operative in South Africa to set up his first project. "In a way, the apartheid years were good for us because people left us alone with our honest experiment," Dr Mather reflected, just months before his death. As a *Horizon* documentary reveals this week, experiments around the world appear to prove his faith was justified.



Dr Mather: maverick

Before Dr Mather became involved, the science of weather modification had already claimed many reputations. The idea that clouds could be manipulated first circulated in the 1940s, and efforts gathered pace soon after the Second World War. Weather experts fired rockets into clouds to stop them producing hail, which damages crops. The clouds, it was hoped, would dissolve into a harmless shower. However, the entire discipline fell into disrepute when commercial companies hijacked the idea, took it around the world, and then failed to deliver on their promises. Cloud-seeding, as the process was known, became the preserve of crackpots and charlatans.

grow until they become too heavy to remain suspended in the atmosphere. As the crystals fall through the cloud, they become raindrops.

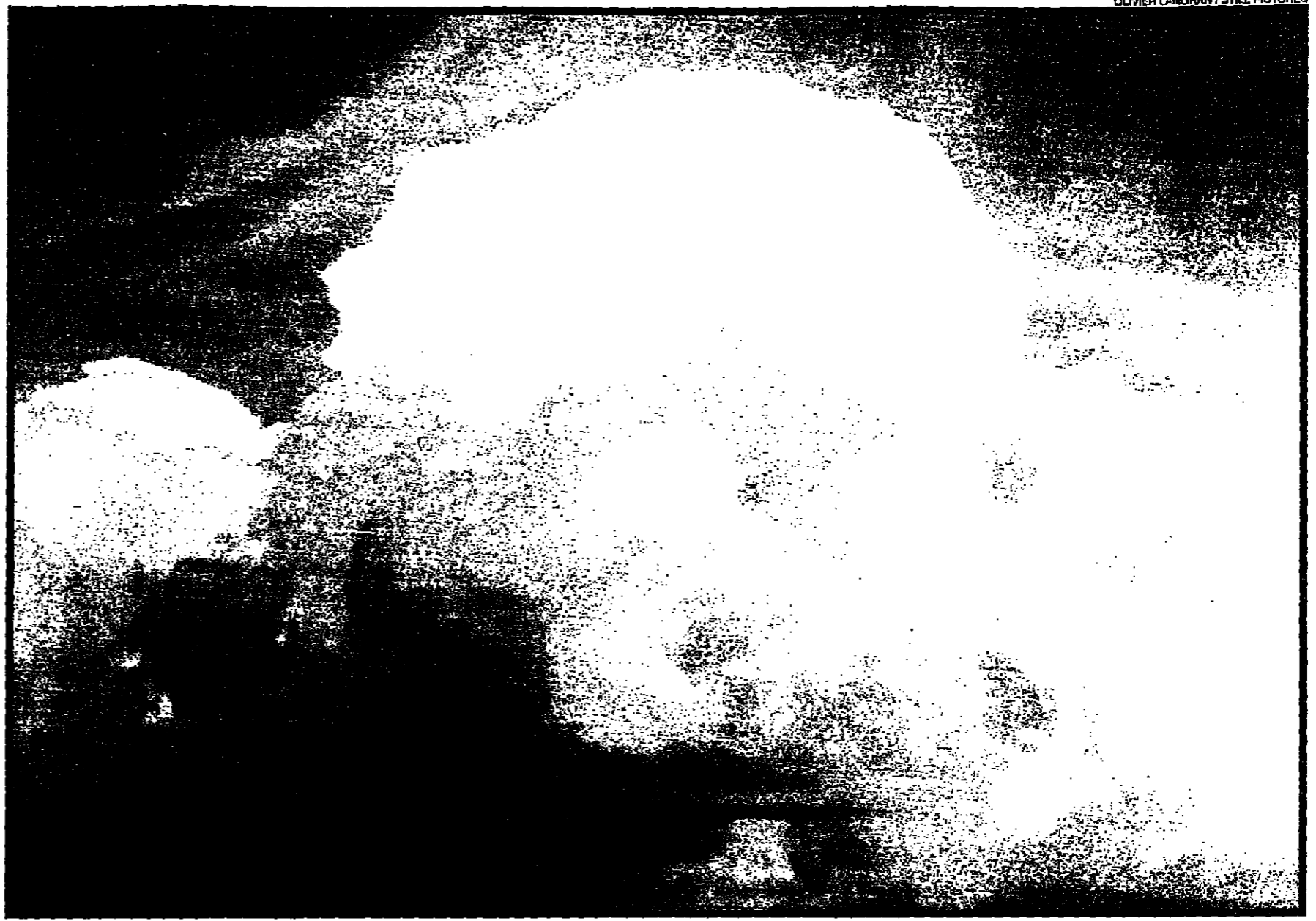
The ice crystals therefore act as frames to "grow" raindrops. Scientists theorised that if they could inject the cloud with similarly shaped crystals, these imposter crystals would also act as frames around which droplets would clump. The cloud would then be tricked into raining. Silver iodide, whose crystals resemble those of ice, seemed the best bet.

Sadly, none of the experiments, including Dr Mather's South African project, which had been going for more than five years, seemed to work. Dr Mather was about to admit defeat when serendipity intervened. He and a colleague decided to collect a last batch of data when they flew into a tiny but ferocious storm. That storm, Dr Mather says in the film, changed his life. Huge droplets were

spattering on the tiny plane's windshield. No such storm had been forecast. Back on the ground, they discovered the storm was located directly above a paper mill.

Dr Mather was convinced that something that the mill was spewing into the atmosphere was encouraging the downpour. Subsequent experiments confirmed that hygroscopic salts pouring into the sky from the paper mill were responsible. Hygroscopic salts attract water — once in the atmosphere, the particles act as magnets around which raindrops can form.

The scientific community remained sniffy. Foremost among the sceptics was Dr William Cooper, of the UNited States National Centre for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) in Boulder, Colorado. Dr Cooper, regarded as one of the world's finest cloud scientists, saw Dr Mather present his astonishing claims at a cloud physics confer-



The idea of making clouds rain fell into disrepute when it was hijacked by commercial companies and the process became the preserve of crackpots and charlatans

ence in Montreal in 1982. Dr Cooper was wary; Dr Mather was known to be a smooth-talking salesman.

"He was charming and charismatic, and many scientists don't trust that," Dr Cooper says. "He was also not well-published because he had been working in the commercial sector. Overall, he was regarded as a maverick. At the conference he presented results that I was convinced were impossible. Yet the statistical evidence was overwhelming, which I couldn't understand."

Dr Cooper arranged to fly to South Africa "with the full intention of explaining what was wrong with the experiment". Instead, he came back convinced that Dr Mather was on to something. NCAR is now running two experiments, one in Arizona and one in northern Mexico, to try to verify the South African results. The experiments use potassium chloride, which is similar to table salt (sodium chloride) and, it is claimed, non-polluting. The trial in Mexico has been running for two years, and according to Dr Roelof Bruinjes, who is

heading the experiments, the signs are promising. "We were sufficiently encouraged in the first year to continue the seeding research. But the results are preliminary, because we have only a very small sample of clouds at the moment. We need to work over two more summers to reach a proper conclusion. "If the South African results can be reproduced, it will be the most exciting thing to have happened in the field for 20 years. It will be remarkable because some of the results are not scientifically ex-

plainable." Dr Bruinjes adds, however, that scientists must exercise caution because cloud-seeding is still mired in controversy. He also points out that, with water being such a precious resource, success will push the research into the political arena. More than a quarter of the world's population lives in areas prone to drought, and many countries would want to put the idea into practice. Dr Mather died last year, aged 63, from leukaemia, shortly before the documentary, produced and directed by Adam Bullimore and

Denman Rooke, was completed. The programme will ensure that this smooth-talking maverick is given the recognition he deserves. Dr Cooper says: "With the paper mill, he saw something that other people wouldn't have seen. I am still uncomfortable with his idea because it throws up major puzzles in cloud physics. But if Dr Mather is right, it will demonstrate that humans can change clouds in ways that were once thought impossible. ● *Horizon: The Rainmaker* is on Thursday on BBC2 at 9.30pm.

JEEVES, the perfect valet created by P. G. Wodehouse, always argued that fish was the best food for the brain. He may have been on to something, if a new analysis in the *British Journal of Nutrition* is to be believed. Three scientists, including Dr Michael Crawford, of the University of North London, argue that it was the ready availability of fish and shellfish in the lakes of the Rift Valley in Africa that made the evolution of the human brain possible. In just a few million years, brain volumes more than

## More fish please, Jeeves

tripled, from the meagre 384ml of *Australopithecus afarensis* to the whopping 1,250ml of *Homo sapiens*. A few million years may seem a long time, but in evolutionary terms it is not. Many explanations have been advanced for the explosive growth of the brain, involving genetic, climatic and environmental factors, but Dr Crawford and his co-authors, Dr Stephen

Cunnane and Dr C. Leigh Broadhurst and find them unsatisfactory. They point out that the brain consists largely of long-chain polyunsaturated fatty acids. Among the most important are arachidonic acid (AA) and docosahexaenoic acid (DHA), which can be synthesised from other fatty acids, but only slowly. The evidence is that for optimum

brain growth in babies, a good supply of both AA and DHA in food is essential. They are present in breast milk, though not in all powdered formula feeds. It so happens that tropical fish and shellfish are an especially abundant source of both these brain foods. Indeed, says the team, their composition comes closer to that of the brain than any other food source known. The fish, found in large quantities in the Rift Valley lakes around which man evolved, also provide plenty of protein. The problem is that fishing tackle in the form of harpoons or fish-hooks only appeared 18,000 years ago, long after the transition to a bigger brain had already taken place.



SCIENCE BRIEFING  
Nigel Hawkes

But this is not an insuperable obstacle. The team argues that grabbing or trapping fish, or collecting shellfish by hand, may have long predated sophisticated fishing. It would be a lot

and then become intelligent?" they ask. "Since these two are not mutually exclusive, the answer is likely to lie between." If it is true that we owe our brains to eating fish, there are implications for today's diets, because there is evidence, the team says, that lack of abundant AA and DHA in the womb and in infancy leads to lower IQs. "We are not so far removed from our palaeolithic ancestors that we can expect our present agricultural, processed food-based diet to provide indefinitely for our continued intellectual development," they conclude. Bring on the fish, Jeeves.

THE slow growth of lichens on fresh falls of rock has provided a new method for dating earthquakes. Surprising as it may seem, the method has identified past earthquakes that other techniques had missed, according to its originators, Professor William Bull, of the University of Arizona, and Dr Mark Brandon, of Yale. The usual method for dating ancient earthquakes is to look for disturbances in the

## Lichens used to date earthquakes

layers of earth, and then to carbon-date organic matter — fallen trees, for example — lying immediately above the disturbance. Eight years ago, Professor Bull began wondering if lichen growth might provide a more reliable clock. Typically, a lichen in the area around the San Andreas fault in California will grow at

three eighths of an inch a century. Rock first exposed to the air by an earthquake 1,000 years ago would be dotted with lichens averaging about 34in across. In the South Island of New Zealand, where conditions are wetter, growth is about 50 per cent faster. Results suggest that in both areas, earthquakes have been more frequent than previously supposed. In New Zealand, big earthquakes occur about every 260 years, the lichen shows. The most recent was 238 years ago, so it seems possible that another is due.

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**Whales cool on global warming**

A NEW experiment has produced striking results, but may yet fall foul of campaigners who say it is making life too noisy for whales. The Acoustic Thermometry of Ocean Climate (Atoc) project involves making very loud noises underwater off the California coast, and detecting them 5,000 miles away on Christmas Island in the Pacific. Since the speed of sound in water depends on temperature, the time taken for the sound to cover 5,000 miles — about an hour — is a way of measuring how warm the water is. Proving that global warming is actually occurring is difficult, but Atoc could do it. Results of the first 15 months, reported recently at an American Geophysical Union meeting, show that the spikes of sound can be timed to within 20 milliseconds, which means they can read the average temperature of the ocean to within six thousandths of a degree. Within a decade that would be precise enough to detect the predicted global warming trend. Although no ill-effects on whales have been demonstrated, the permit for the experiment expires in August.

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LEFT: pale grey stretch three-button jacket, £286, and matching trousers, £175. White slash-neck jumper, £115.  
CENTRE: cherry-print spaghetti-strap dress, £185.  
RIGHT: beaded dress in antique pink lace, £702, worn over a pale pink silk slip dress, £95. Necklaces, £90, by Detail, 4a Symons St, London SW3 (0171-730 8488). Pink suede strappy leather heels, £210, by Jimmy Choo, 20 Motcombe St, SW1 (0171-235 6008).

All clothes are from Elspeth Gibson's spring/summer collection at A La Mode, Hens Crescent, London SW1, and Tokio, 309 Brompton Rd, SW3. National inquiries: 0171-561 0773.  
Photographer: RYAN SULLIVAN  
Stylist: Deborah Brett  
Hair: Raphael Salfay at Michaeljohn Management  
Make-up: Jochen Fuchs at Michaeljohn Management  
Model: Ainsley at Elite

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# Fashion's best-kept secret

Elspeth Gibson's studio would surprise the *soigné* New Yorkers who buy her designs at Barneys. In that most chic of department stores, all is minimal and monochrome.

Chez Gibson is a different story. The maisonette in Highgate still serves as marital home and workspace, and the cleaner can barely pick her way between mannequins and rolls of fabric. A tiny black and gold beaded dress hangs in the hallway. When Gibson poses for pictures at her cutting table, her assistant, Amy, has to move into the kitchen.

Yet in these domestic surroundings a collection destined to be one of the most talked about of London Fashion Week has been born. Elspeth Gibson is unusual among high-profile London designers in that she has never staged a show. While others rush for the catwalk the minute they leave college — Alexander McQueen made his name through shows, Tristan Webber shows for the second time next week, despite graduating only in March — Gibson, 34, established her own

company in 1994. Her first order, for a dozen dresses, came from Liberty and her reputation, and collection, have grown ever since. Last year, Alexandra Shulman, the Editor of British *Vogue*, pronounced that Gibson had created "the perfect skirt", a design that seemed "to strike the right balance: looking modern and different without being too extreme". The *Financial Times* compared Gibson with Prada. She finds this "very flattering" but does not take it altogether seriously. Nevertheless, her fans include Cher, Saffron Aldridge, Helena Christensen, Helena Bonham Carter and the singer Dina Carroll.

Gibson herself has described her designs, often embroidered and beaded, as "pretty". But they reflect the designer's character in that they are, on the one hand, all sweetness and light but, on the other, hard-edged with sharp silhouettes. Despite the frequent giggles and wide smile, Gibson is fiercely ambitious. Asked why she wants to show when her reputation is already strong, she muses: "Am I established? I don't know. I want to go all the way with this. I'd like to be an international designer. This is the next step." Later she mentions T-shirts, perfumes — a whole merchandising bonanza that may lie in the future.

Her show will not be held in the tents outside the Natural History Museum but in the ultra-chic surroundings of Nobu, the fashion pack's favourite London restaurant. "I thought about the Pharmacy — my husband, Dominic, is a dentist, so I thought all those bottles and things might be good. But when I went to look...". She shudders. Gibson's style is at the other end of the fashion spectrum from McQueen's animal bones and Damien Hirst's ghoulish medicine jars. In fact, Dominic Lawlor has reduced his dental practice to two days a week so he can manage the business. He also keeps a beady eye on his wife's extravagant taste for decoration — Elspeth's own beady eye, which lights on blue

Debenhams readily agreed to sponsor her show. In fact, Gibson knows more than most designers about the mass market. After a three-year course at Nottingham College of Art and Design, she did a stint at Zandra Rhodes, then worked for several high street labels, including Moncler. "When I finally did start my own company, I had a standard to weigh the difficulties against. I knew that creativity was only a small part of the business." Her parents have been hugely supportive. She grew up in Nottingham, where her father worked as an architect and her mother in the graphics department of Rolls-Royce. They gave her a strong sense of what, yes, life was difficult, but that, yes, life was difficult, but one had to get on with the business of it.

She said: "During one of my first jobs I remember phoning up my father in tears and saying 'It's such hard work. They want me to do this and that'. He said 'You can't run away because things are difficult, you have to confront it'. After that conversation, I decided to knuckle down and get on with it." Amid the slog, however, there is now time to enjoy the experience of design. She relishes her twice-yearly visits to Premier Vision, in Paris, where she selects her luxury fabrics. "I'm like a child in a sweet shop," she confesses. "I will fall in love with fabrics; then realise afterwards that I can't do anything with them, or they can't be washed, cleaned, whatever." Some of the plain fabrics then go to Parisian embroiderers to be decorated. She begins sketching only once she has the cloth in her workroom. Her clothes may sound like the kind of pieces one scarcely dares to wear, but Gibson is adamant that they should be a source of pleasure. When she got married in 1996, she leapt into the swimming pool in her wedding dress. "It was such a hot weekend, we were all having so much fun. I thought 'I'm not going to wear it again'."

She took it to her dry-cleaner, who was appalled. "It came back two sizes smaller, which is great because when I'm older I'll be able to get the dress out and say 'Look, this is how small I was'. It's got the antique look about it now," she says, and giggles.



Gibson: "I'm like a child in a sweet shop"

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beads, glass beads and jet beads, might otherwise be her financial downfall. "If I'm using a fabric, I always look for the best one — I don't like to cut corners. Dominic will say 'Do you know how much this is going to cost if you make it in that?' And I'll say, 'But I have to have one'. Then he'll say 'OK as long as I keep the cost of the daywear down. It's nice to have just a few very special pieces. It's important to look at ways of keeping your prices down.' Beaded dresses start at £300, evening coats from £700. Other designers in this market now bolster their finances by designing high street capsule collections. Gibson has turned down similar offers, leaving the consequences of watering down her style before she was well-enough known. Even without a tie-in,

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صحنه من الاصل

# Opera, a nice little earner?

It can be done, says the man behind the Albert Hall's new *Madam Butterfly*. Richard Morrison reports

So it's gloom all over the concert and opera world? Not quite. There is one corner of musical England that is forever cheerful, forever in profit. It is the small office in Barnet, north London, from where Raymond Gubbay — impresario extraordinaire — sets out his stall. And what a stall! This year, with a staff of nine, he will mount 200 classical music events that will attract 400,000 punters and generate a turnover of £10 million.

While the subsidised arts fatter, Gubbay just gets richer. You may like what he does or loathe it (and loathing is pretty much *de rigueur* for the more fastidious music critics), but you have to admit that Gubbay is fantastically successful at pulling in audiences that no other musical organisation seems to reach. His flash-bang-wallop Classical Spectaculars, his Teddy Bears Concerts for kids, his incorrigibly jolly Yuletide festivals ("it takes a good Jewish boy to give them what they want at Christmas," he says) — all these strike musical purists as naff abominations. But just as surely, they strike Gubbay as potential goldmines.

For his part, Gubbay is equally scathing about what he sees as the fatal complacency in the subsidised arts. "There is always an audience out there, but you must constantly look for new ways to bring it in. I see a public eager for entertainment, but an arts establishment not always eager to please."

This week Gubbay will be in his element. As the highly subsidised Royal Opera House indulges in another bout of internal bloodletting while its companies lose millions on the road, Gubbay will mount a spectacular new production of *Madam Butterfly*. It will be his third opera production with the Albert Hall in as many years. It will play to more than 50,000 people in London and Birmingham. It won't cost the taxpayer a penny. And it will turn in a nice little profit for

Gubbay. Indeed, he has slated in two extra performances to meet the demand for tickets.

So how can he do what subsidised companies can't? First, he has no staff costs. He buys in an orchestra (the BBC Concert), something he believes that Covent Garden should also do. "Why does it run its own, when half a dozen fine orchestras are under-employed in London?"

Secondly, he pays "regional opera" rates for middle-ranking soloists, not mega-fees for alleged superstars. The truth is that opera singers, with very few exceptions, are unknown to the public," he maintains.

Let the critics write what they want. I won't read it!

"And yet they command enormous fees — ten grand a night or more at Covent Garden. It's an international mafia that's pushing up fees all the time and contributing enormously to opera houses' problems. Why should the taxpayer give subsidy to Covent Garden when it is largely going into the pockets of a few singers? I find that the public neither knows nor cares who's singing. They are happy to come for the concept."

And "concept" is the third vital ingredient of Gubbay's arena-opera formula. This year he has cannily hired David Freeman — the radical Australian director, and a critics' darling — to stage the Puccini. But grand spectacle will undoubtedly be central to the enterprise. For a start, Gubbay is planning to flood the Albert Hall: 15,000 gallons of water will be pumped into vast tanks in the arena each night to make a "Japanese

water garden" replete with floating candles. The water will then be drained during each interval, presumably to reflect the draining hopes of the heroine. It sounds very H<sub>2</sub>O-intensive for these drought-prone times.

"Not at all," Gubbay says. "Mindful of Thames Water's objections, we are being very green. We have tanks below the arena into which the water drains, and it is then filtered so it can be recycled fresh for the next show."

The other big technical problem for Gubbay is the sound. Because of the Albert Hall's size, and the fact that the audience is all around the action, amplification must be used. That, too, agitates some critics, who see it as a distortion of the operatic ideal. Gubbay is bullish. "It's galling that the critics knock me for doing this openly, yet ignore the amplification going on covertly in opera houses all over the world."

But after so many critical pastings in the past, Gubbay affords a disdainful indifference for the reviewers. "Let them write what they want. I won't read it, we'll still get full houses, and business will carry on. The public are the best critics anyway. If we get something wrong, we get it in the neck from them — and we bloody well take notice, because if we didn't they wouldn't come again."

Golders Green born and bred, the 51-year-old impresario seems to relish the fact that the very word "Gubbay" has become one of those brand names, like Hoover or Filofax, that are used informally to evoke an entire genre of human activity. "It's a compliment, isn't it?" he asks, a shade optimistically. "For 31 years I've earned my living in this funny old concert business. I still get a buzz from seeing a full house, and it's nothing to do with money." He pauses for a moment. "Well, perhaps it's a bit to do with money."

Madam Butterfly will open at the Albert Hall (0171-589 8212) this Thursday



Raymond Gubbay: "I see a public eager for entertainment, but an arts establishment not always eager to please"

## Buried alive in old jokes

Beckett was not the first playwright to realise that absurd plays can inspire great theatre. The Italian Futurists, for instance, who hit their peak while Beckett was still a teenager, were sublimely silly. Their two-line "synthetic dramas" may not be theatrical masterpieces, but despite the Irishman's genius I am not convinced that in *Happy Days* he had very many more interesting things to say.

Ironically it needs a production as good as this by Leap of Faith to bring that revelation home. Here we see a middle-aged Winnie buried up to her belly button in papier mâché, prattling her days away while her husband potently ignores her. After the alarm clock jerks her awake she brushes her teeth, squints in the mirror, and fiddles with

her guns. She is surprisingly sexy. Her ample bosom is parked in a dark revealing red shift. Hugh Kernode's Willie emerges in a string vest from behind Winnie's heap of sand. He blows his nose, spreads the handle on his bald head and places a straw boater on top. He reads from a newspaper and barks occasional non-sequiturs in a stiff-lipped, public school accent.

They are an odd couple, old before their years, in the process of being buried alive. Like one of Mike Leigh's suburban monsters, Winnie rabbits on, betraying little cracks of despair as she endlessly sorts the contents of her handbag.

They are an odd couple, old before their years, in the process of being buried alive. Like one of Mike Leigh's suburban monsters, Winnie rabbits on, betraying little cracks of despair as she endlessly sorts the contents of her handbag.

She puts up a small parcel and to the amazement of the audience it promptly starts smouldering. Despite the lightness of Winnie's towering monologues this is not light relief. She is merely running out of everything except things to say. "Ah well, musn't complain." It is the insane sort of optimism which the elderly and the damaged corner you with in shops.

"What's she doing... what's the idea... stuck up to her doddies in the bleeding ground... What does it mean? ... What is it meant to mean?" asks Mr Cooker, or is it Mr Shower? "Why doesn't he [Willie] dig her out of the ground?" Winnie, who relates this surprisingly reasonable line of questioning, tells us that this was the last human contact that she and Willie had on this theatrical acid trip. It's also the point where I wanted to get off.

It sounds absurd but the actors outperform the play. Kernode provides sharp comic support as the decrepit Willie. But Bellamy gives an extraordinary performance, full of light banalities and sharp fearful notes like the daily discovery of the gun that's always at the top of her bag.

In the second half, when she is buried up to her neck, the optimism is subverted by depression and real panic. One cannot help but thrill to her performance in a way that one cannot thrill to the pretentiousness and absurdity of Beckett's old jokes.

JAMES CHRISTOPHER

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CHANGING TIMES

## Beautiful deconstruction

FUSION cooking may be all the restaurant rage, but artists such as Shobana Jeyasingh have also been synthesising cultures. Jeyasingh founded her dance company in 1988 with the aim of taking the old — in her case the venerable South Asian dance form of bharatha natyam — and marrying it with the new and global.

The title of Jeyasingh's new piece, *Intimacies of a Third Order*, refers to the themes of "leave-taking, journeys, arrivals and above all new ways of belonging" which initiated her working process. The outcome for her six female dancers is plotless, beautiful and mysterious. The signs of bharatha natyam are deconstructed — pulled apart, amended, added to and merged into western-style contemporary groupings, duets and eye-contact. Sometimes flashes of the old geometry and foot-stamping

DANCE

erupt intact, like fragments of memories; sometimes you see the torso in its upright axis, arms shooting their familiar linear patterns out from it. But then the torso tilts and twists, the arms soften and curve, the legs swing into martial-art kicks and balletic jumps.

The energy level is often upbeat, driven by the dumpy brass gasps of Michael Gordon's minimalist score. Is it the music's later adagio section that causes the dance's impetus eventually to sag? Even so, Gordon offers more interest than Andy Cowton's hackneyed whirrs and rumbles for the programme's oth-

er piece, Wayne McGregor's *Interence*. The company's dancers inhabit this sound-world with an even-paced dynamic that becomes monotonous. Like Jeyasingh, McGregor punctuates his eclectic dance grammar with its own, occasional, aural component: breath sharply inhaled or exhaled with accompanying contractions. The standing movement has the slow sculptural graphism of tai chi but the floor activity, lacking clear definition, tends to slump into amorphous gropes.

McGregor's choreography could be linked to anything — with its taxing, and unremitting, writing for cello and cor anglais. This is not so much civilised discourse as point-scoring repartee. *Tenu* (1981) once again concerns itself with rupture and integrity. At one point the fragments cohere into something like a Mendelssohnian scherzo, and the end marks an uncertain rapprochement.

Bizarre timbres characterise *Le Ruissseau sur l'escalier*, in which Kirstin Spencer was the admirable cello soloist, though ear-splitting instrumental colour is about the last thing of which one could accuse Donatoni: a modernist of uncompromising rigour.

NADINE MEISNER

## Italian job pays off

CONCERT

THE name of Franco Donatoni is too often missing from lists of seminal 20th-century composers, so all credit to the Royal Academy of Music for at last giving the Italian his due in its twelfth International Composer Festival, with talks, discussions, masterclasses and concerts over the three days.

Donatoni has been in residence throughout, and at the close of Wednesday night's concert in the Duke's Hall the composer, a severe-looking, grey 70-year-old, struggled to the platform to greet the players, who stood behind him to share the applause — bright-eyed, their lives ahead.

Straddling the disparate age groups was the experienced Italian conductor Simone Fontanelli, who guided the responsive players of the Manson Ensemble with a sure hand. The concert was titled "Donatoni in Perspective" and it opened with a work by his compatriot, Bruno Maderna. The start of the *Serenata No 2* was hesitant, but before long those all-important sonorities were being executed with more confidence, the gaps between them more precisely calibrated.

Webern's *Six Pieces, Op 6*, heard in their chamber version, also deploy colour to unify fragmentary material. The second piece, for example, begins with a quaint duet for

tophe Charron, the remaining works were by Donatoni. *Holy* (1990) put the oboist Emma Bullough through her paces — a test she passed with aplomb — with its taxing, and unremitting, writing for oboe and cor anglais. This is not so much civilised discourse as point-scoring repartee. *Tenu* (1981) once again concerns itself with rupture and integrity. At one point the fragments cohere into something like a Mendelssohnian scherzo, and the end marks an uncertain rapprochement.

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Buried alive in old jokes

Buried alive in old jokes... The article discusses the state of comedy and the challenges faced by comedians in a changing media landscape.

THEATRE

Happy Days... The article reviews a production of 'Happy Days' at the BAC, SW1, highlighting the performance of the lead actor.

On Sunday, Sir John Mills turns 90. Good reason to look back on an inspired and inspirational career



In which he was served: John Mills gets stuck into a rock cake and cup of tea from a replica NAAFI wagon at the opening of the RAF's Battle of Britain exhibition in 1990

The soul of Englishness

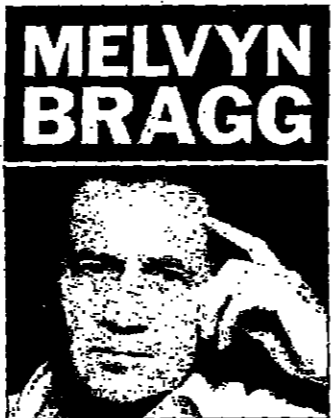
Sir John Mills at 90 is an event. It is given to few to be as admired, as appreciated and, as the years have left him unbowed, as loved. He is a large slice of the history of the British cinema and perhaps the prime living example of what we like about an Englishman. His life and work seem to have gone hand in glove. When the cross inevitable in any long prolific career — itself the span of a biblical life — is blown away we are left with a rare body of achievement in which the man becomes more than the sum of his many parts.

He stands for an idea of what was widely regarded as the best of English not so very long ago: plucky, resilient, honest, stoical, amused, tolerant, self-deprecating. Now he is almost blind, going deaf, but you would never notice what, in white tuxedo with silver-knobbed stick, he comes spruce and dapper on to the stage to poke fun at his life and times in a charming one-man show.

and struggled to get onstage. He is very funny about those early days, especially the time spent selling lavatory paper. "My heart wasn't in it," he told me. "In truth, I found the demonstrations rather embarrassing." The Quixote, a company which tackled everything from revue to Shakespeare, went to the Far East and an accident-scared evening in Singapore resulted in an unintentional farcical performance which caught the eye of Noel Coward, who thought that Mills had meant it. In 1931 Coward put Mills in the blockbuster *Cavalcade*. "England Himself Again," declared *The Times*. "I was very loyal and royal," Mills recalls, and he has stayed that way.

There was Scott of the Antarctic — at that time an unequivocal English hero — and then *Ice Cold in Alex* where, for the first time, he was flawed: an alcoholic Army captain facing one last sortie over the desert before hitting Alexandria and that ice-cold lager. He tells the story in his show. "Started to film at 9am. Take one. Lager poured out. Action. Bang, down in one. Take two. Bang. Take 14. Absolutely plastered. Best morning's work I ever had."

I is common now to see all that John Mills was and all that he stood for coming to an end, but I am not so sure. When you look around, especially at today's teenage generation, there is a lot more of Mills than you would think. He ends his one-man show playing the piano and singing a sentimental song which begins: "Wherever the road may take you. 'Wherever the rainbow ends.' and returns to the sentiment: 'Ever the best of friends.'" As he has been to generations who have seen and still see the truth in John Mills and, in his acting, something of the truth in themselves.



He did put the boys up there, as Sherry Blake in Coward's *In Which We Serve* (where he began his collaboration with David Lean) then, promoted, as an RAF officer in *The Way to the Stars*. This was probably his finest wartime film. In it he read out a poem he had found in the pocket of a brother officer he had seen killed. He read in a clipped, neutral voice to the officer's widow, who looked away in anguish. It is a scene

Great to see him back

IT COULD have been supreme folly to book the 52-year-old Terry Callier into the Jazz Café for three consecutive nights. After all, we had not really heard from the man in 15 years, ever since he quit the music business, broke and disillusioned. Callier spent the intervening years hibernating in Chicago, raising his daughter, working by day as a computer programmer and studying at night for a sociology degree.

POP

Terry Callier Jazz Café

include the likes of Paul Weller and Beth Orton, with whom he recorded an EP last year. Through their championing, he became one of those word-of-mouth names to drop, raising high expectations of his comeback album *Timepiece*, a sublime collection of poetic and moving songs which hit the stores last week.

Live, he proves to be a warm and relaxed performer, a man who feels he has nothing to prove but clearly regards it as an honour and a privilege to be back on stage. He strummed an acoustic guitar while his seven-piece band was the epitome of laid-back, barely raising the tempo above a sophisticated strut.

His voice and delivery evoke obvious comparison with his childhood friend Curtis Mayfield, but he also has an affinity with white performers, such as Jesse Colin Young and John Martyn, who inhabit similarly mellifluous territory. His voice soared heavenwards on the sultry *No More Blues*, the best track on his new album, while his version of Mayfield's *People Get Ready* was a smoothly swinging affair, full of space and air.

Gary Plumley's flute added a jazzy, Herbie Mann-like feel, while Jim Mullen's guitar offered hints of tasteful funk as the band stretched out on an extended version of the new album's title track.

During the break between his two sets Callier wandered around shaking hands, a delightfully modest man grateful of the opportunity to be making music again. At the end he seemed genuinely overwhelmed by a reception that approached adulation.

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

This week in THE TIMES



Juliette Binoche stars in Pirandello's 1922 play *Naked at the Almeida* OPENS: Wednesday REVIEW: Friday



Grandee of the rock circuit, Van Morrison, performs in Brighton GIG: Wednesday REVIEW: Friday



An LSO survey of Shostakovich symphonies begins at the Barbican OPENS: Thursday REVIEW: Monday



Kevin Costner directs and acts in the futuristic epic *The Postman* RELEASED: Friday REVIEW: Thursday

PLUS: Egberto Gismonti plays ethnic-inspired jazz in the Festival Hall. Fr

A large grid of advertisements for various theatres and galleries. Each ad includes the name of the venue, the title of the production, and contact information. Theatres listed include Adelphi, Aldwych, Comedy Theatre, Dukes, Haymarket, Lyric, Phoenix, Savoy, and many others. Galleries include Benge, Borsari, and others. The ads are arranged in a structured grid format.

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# Reaching for a white flag again

## Saddam will never respond to weakness, says Robin Renwick

As British and American pilots prepare for a difficult and dangerous task if Saddam Hussein continues to defy mandatory UN Security Council resolutions and to accelerate the production of chemical and, particularly, biological weapons, we find ourselves witnessing the familiar spectacle of the British intelligence in disarray. Some of our most distinguished commentators are firmly sounding the retreat.

In this paper on February 7 Simon Jenkins — on any other topic, my favourite columnist — contended that President Clinton was looking for "a small state to bomb" and that he and the Prime Minister are Saddam's best friends. By virtue of his determination to resist Saddam's genocidal ambitions, Tony Blair is accused of wanting to join the Bomber Harris appreciation society and of planning the "cluster-bombing of Iraqi cities".

In *The Sunday Times*, Ben Finiton accuses the Prime Minister of being drawn into an immoral (sic) war. It is hard, he concludes, to see that anything much can be achieved, beyond setting back the Iraqi weapons programme a year or two.

In *The Sunday Telegraph*, Auberon Waugh denounces this "fatuous enterprise" the object of which, he contends, is to distract attention from the President's alleged affair with a White House staffer. In the *International Herald Tribune*, Sir Roy Denman worries that we may be isolated in Europe, with the Prime Minister looking like the President's poodle.

The poodle epithet, of course, is not new. Attempts always used to be made to apply it to the relationship between Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher (though there was some doubt as to who was the poodle). And, to complete the picture, we now have ten Anglican bishops accusing Robin Cook — an unlikely warmonger — of excessive belligerence.

Some of these commentators display the merit of consistency. They were just as resolutely opposed to the use of air power against the Bosnian Serbs, which put an end to the shelling of Sarajevo and paved the way for the Dayton accord, and to the Gulf War itself which, if it had not been fought and won, would have left us now dealing with a Saddam Hussein armed with nuclear weapons.

Under UN Security Council Resolution No 687, which sets out the ceasefire terms for ending the Gulf War, Iraq is obliged to accept the destruction, removal or rendering harmless of all its nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and ballistic missiles and research and development facilities associated with them. Iraq also undertook not to develop such weapons and to allow immediate, unrestricted access to any site the UN inspectors wish to visit.

Despite constant obstruction by the Iraqi authorities, the UN teams discovered and destroyed part of the Iraqi chemical and germ warfare arsenal. Iraq has been proven to have been producing large quantities of nerve gas and at least 50,000 litres of anthrax

and botulinum — supposedly for animal feed. Precisely because the inspectors were successful, Saddam has now brought an effective end to the inspection regime.

These weapons are not suitable for use against other countries' armed forces. They are designed for use against another population. The degree of devastation they could cause would be equivalent to a small nuclear bomb.

Faced with this difficult and extremely dangerous situation, there are no good or easy options. Over the past decade, we have learned from bitter experience that Saddam has never been known to give way except in response to the use or threat of force.

On two occasions since the Gulf War, force has had to be used — in August 1992 and September 1996 — when air attacks were launched to enforce the no-fly zones and UN inspection regimes. On another occasion, America retaliated for an assassination attempt against George Bush.

Those who firmly oppose the threat or use of force to try to coerce the Iraqi regime into discontinuing these programmes have been able to offer no explanation of the alternative they propose — which, clearly, is to allow Saddam to continue to frustrate the inspection regime.

We must expect him to conclude, correctly, that he can get on with developing his biological weapons programme with much less interference than in the past — indeed, with no effective interference at all. Since these weapons can be used *inter alia* for purposes of terrorism, it would require an ardent optimist to conclude that he will never use them.

The least bad option, therefore, appears to be to threaten military action unless he complies. Those who want to see a diplomatic solution must surely realise by now that none will be forthcoming unless the pressures on Saddam include the threat of force.

If he remains obdurate, then military action to slow down and at least partially destroy these weapons programmes also would appear to be the least bad option. If certain sites cannot be inspected, they can be destroyed. That will not eliminate, but will set back his weapons programme.

No one wishes to increase the suffering of the Iraqi people. The ability to alleviate it is in the hands of their rulers. If the regime abandoned these programmes, Iraq would be able to benefit from large oil revenues and rebuild its economy. No one can complain that diplomacy is not being given time to work. Exhaustive efforts are continuing to persuade Iraq to comply.

As for the British people, the polls suggest that showing, as usual, more good sense than their intellectual advisers, they do support the Prime Minister in his contention that Saddam cannot be given free rein to pursue his biological warfare ambitions.

Lord Renwick of Clifton was British Ambassador to the United States, 1991-1995.

From the arts and the elderly to rural disquiet, warnings are being sounded on the Labour pitfall

# Listen to your canaries, Mr Blair

William Rees-Mogg

The arts community is often a good political indicator. Like the farmers, artists are substantially interested in public subsidy, particularly for the classical performing arts. Individual artists tend to be left-wing, though many are non-political and some are right-wing. They are emotionally responsive, and often move quickly to new attitudes. In terms of public opinion, the arts community is like the canary in the coal pit; half a lungful of methane gas will make the bird keel over, but that may mean the whole mine is filling with gas.

This community feels betrayed by the Labour government. Its leading spokesmen, such as Harold Pinter and Sir Peter Hall, have already denounced the Government on different issues — Pinter on the Gulf and Sir Peter on arts policy itself. Sir Peter, who once climbed on a coffee table at the National Theatre to denounce his record as chairman of the Arts Council, has now said that Labour's policy is "rather worse than the excesses of the Tories". In fact, the Thatcher government increased the arts subsidy quite substantially in real terms, whereas new Labour has cut it. Apart from Danbert Nobacon's symbolic emptying of an ice bucket over John Prescott, the creative community is astonished at the Government's treatment of the arts.

This is not a question only of money. The new chairman of the Arts Council is to be Gerry Robinson, the chairman of Granada. Mr Robinson is a tough businessman, if that is what the arts need; his period at Granada has not been distinguished by a devotion to art but by devotion to the bottom line. If the Government had wanted a chairman of the Arts Council who combined television experience with a lifelong devotion to the arts, they could have invited Melvyn Bragg. Gerry Robinson is not a philistine, but his lifetime

contribution to the arts is far, far less than Melvyn Bragg's.

When a government is making a mistake, there will usually be some foolish Member of Parliament who is only too eager to add insult to injury. Stephen Castle and my old colleague Paul Routledge, writing in *The Independent on Sunday*, have found just such a quotation from Denis MacShane, who is a Parliamentary Private Secretary at the Foreign Office. "Luvvies have been winning for more government cash since the Roman emperors hired them."

Both Horace and Virgil received the patronage of the Emperor Augustus: I do not know what passages from their works support the allegation that they whined for more cash. Ovid did whine to be allowed home from his well-deserved banishment for sleaze, but that is a different issue.

Artists are a dangerous group to take on. The chattering classes did a great deal to make new Labour fashionable, thereby to bring the Government to power in 1997. "It was lusting for it," it was said. One cannot separate the arts community from the rest of the media world. I hear the argument that Harold Pinter and Sir Peter Hall have nowhere else to go; perhaps at the next election they will still be voting Labour as individuals; yet their impact depends on what they actually say. When Pinter states in public that he finds the relationship between Blair and Clinton "shameful and pathetic", there is no

lack of people to applaud him. The damage, such as it is, has been done.

There are other powerful groups which are becoming uneasy. Much the largest, and therefore much the most powerful, is the older age group. A third of the electorate is either close to retirement or has already retired. At the last election I found, when I was canvassing in Scotland for my son, that this age group was the most sceptical about Labour promises. They, too, wanted a change, but were not confident that much good would

have not found a way to exploit this political opportunity; they, too, with a very young leader, leave an impression of being fixated on youth. But people notice the conduct of government, and this is an administration which seems not to value old age. The old do not see themselves as part of the crew of "Cool Britannia".

Another group which feels increasingly alienated is the country people. This government seems to them to be wholly urban. There are indeed many anti-hunting people living in the countryside, though most of them probably work, or have retired from working, in towns. Yet the hunting issue makes people who live in the country feel, and correctly, that Labour has little regard for their way of life.

More importantly, farming is suffering the worst recession for a generation. Psychological sympathy or alienation is central to politics. When it was first reported that the Scots saw Margaret Thatcher as too bossy and too English, little attention was paid because she was winning votes elsewhere. By 1997, the Conservatives had lost every seat in Scotland. Many country people now feel that Tony Blair is too urban for them.

In recent elections, British politics has been increasingly influenced by cultural as well as political factors. At the last election, new Labour completely outmanoeuvred the Conservatives in handling these cultural

movements, particularly the nostalgic youth culture of those who are now around 40. Scottish nationalism is itself partly a cultural phenomenon, and Welsh nationalism very largely so. The next election is again likely to be decided by cultural as well as by political issues. Will electors still identify with new Labour, or will they be swinging back to traditional loyalties?

The Tories have an opportunity to confirm their hold on the countryside: in terms of seats that is more of a threat to the Liberal Democrats than to Labour. The Liberal Democrats won five seats in Somerset at the 1997 election, but three of them are marginal: the belief that the Tories are still the natural party of the countryside could cost the Liberal Democrats all three, and many comparable seats elsewhere. The Tories also have to concentrate on the generation that stopped swinging 25 years ago — that generation is not impressed by the spectacle of middle-aged postbags guzzling champagne in Downing Street. If the grey vote and the countryside vote both swing back towards the Tories, that alone would take them well beyond 250 seats at the next election: they would be halfway home.

Yet if Labour insults the artistic community, as it has already done in big ways and little ones — Chris Smith is, is he not, more of a dud than a whizzbang as a minister? — then Labour is attacking its own Praetorian Guard of 1997. What a beautiful quotation it will be for the next Conservative Party speaker's handbook: "MacShane, Denis, 'Luvvies have been winning for more government cash since the Roman emperors hired them.' 'Luvvies... whining... cash... hired...' What love for the arts, what respect for artists, what sincere sympathy that quotation shows."

# Poor old Labour has had its day

Even the most cherished beliefs are questioned now, says Peter Riddell

Welfare reform has become Tony Blair's top domestic priority. Since Christmas it has occupied more of his time than any other issue, apart from Iraq and Northern Ireland. There are now nine committees and Whitehall groups considering the future of social security alone, while reform will be the main theme of Mr Brown's Budget on March 17.

These reviews challenge many of Labour's cherished beliefs. Since the 1970s, Labour's roots have been in the welfare state rather than heavy industry. A majority of the new Labour MPs elected last May worked in the public sector or caring professions, defending current welfare programmes. The attitude of many MPs to reform is therefore ambivalent. Is the aim of reform to improve the existing welfare state, or to change its very nature? In short, does the Labour Party accept the view of long-standing advocates of change such as Frank Field, the Minister for Welfare Reform, that welfare programmes have become part of the problem rather than the solution, by perpetuating dependency?

The answer has become a, if not the, distinction between old and new Labour. The Blairites have attacked many of old Labour's assumptions about universal entitlement. Their emphasis is as much on responsibilities as on rights. The Blairites are also challenging many attitudes that Labour had come to defend. It is not just the introduction of an element of compulsion into the programme to get the young and long-term unemployed back to work — requiring them to take a place on a training or special scheme, or a job, or else face the loss of some benefits. It is more



the broader questioning of existing approaches. Trying to improve failing schools via the creation of independent and innovative Education Action Zones challenges the monopoly power of local education authorities and of teaching unions.

Similarly, Jack Straw's proposals on zero tolerance and young offenders will shake up the police. The creation of the Social Exclusion Unit as a cross-departmental taskforce recognises that unemployment and poverty are inextricably linked with family breakdown, truancy and dropping out of school, and crime-ridden inner-city housing estates.

Implicit is a rejection of the view that all claimants are victims and do not have to take responsibility for themselves. The Blairites believe that welfare reform is not just about money, but also involves changing

peoples' behaviour. It means support for those in genuine need who cannot provide for themselves, but otherwise temporary and conditional help to assist in moving people from welfare to work.

The Chancellor has presented the welfare debate in more familiar old Labour terms as being about unemployment, and the nearly one fifth of households where no one is drawing a wage. For Mr Brown, the dividing line is between those who are working and those who have come to expect not to work. His answer is to increase incentives to work and to remain in work. Mr Brown argues that insufficient attention has been paid to encouraging people to move up the jobs ladder. His first instal-

ment was the Welfare to Work programme, mainly for the young unemployed, lone parents and the disabled.

David Willetts has argued that the need for such an expensive scheme has been undermined by the sharp fall in youth unemployment, though the real test will be in any recession. It will soon be extended to both older workers and part-timers. The second instalment, announced in November, is the working families tax credit to boost the incomes of the low paid, though this shifts payments from the purse to the wallet, which affects independent taxation of women. The Treasury has suggested a check-off system allowing money to be paid direct to a wife, though this may still be administratively cumbersome.

The third part, in the Budget, will almost certainly involve the introduc-

tion of new 10p in the pound starting rate of income tax, together with changes in employees' and employers' national insurance contributions to increase incentives. The rate at which benefits are withdrawn may also be reduced. Mr Brown argues that the national minimum wage is a vital component, since without it employers would be tempted to pay low wages and rely on government subsidies to boost household incomes.

The Prime Minister's new welfare committee is looking at the whole range of benefits. Mr Field has been pressing for a return to a contributory social insurance system, which avoids the debilitating effects of means-testing. But social insurance is costly, because the Treasury would have to top up the contributions of those on low incomes. So a hybrid solution is likely. The insurance principle may be used for a second, "stakeholder" pension, above the basic state pension, and to provide for residential care in old age. Otherwise, there is likely to be a greater focus on targeting help on particular groups — elderly pensioners, the disabled and lone parents who cannot work — possibly via a guaranteed minimum income.

Mr Blair initially presented welfare reform as means of shifting resources into education (and now health) without raising taxes. But, apart from shaking out fraud, any savings will be significant only in the very long-term. Shifting people from welfare to work is expensive, requiring personal advisors and training, as has been shown even in Wisconsin, the flagship of American reform, where welfare rolls have fallen sharply.

William Hague recently compared Mr Blair's welfare campaign to Vietnam. The Government would, he said, keep on "committing more troops in the hope it will lead to salvation. In the end they will be forced to withdraw through lack of resources". The greater danger perhaps is of proclaiming victory too early. Welfare reform will take not just one White Paper, or even one Parliament, but at least a decade.

# V.S. in a paddy

WHILE the sub-continent celebrates 50 years of independence, Sir Vidyaadhar Surajprasad Naipaul, the Booker Prize-winning author, is lamenting the fall of the Raj — to the anger of turban types. The Indians, he has concluded, cannot look after their own temples. So filthy does he now find them, that he refuses to remove his shoes upon entering. V.S., who has lived in England for 40 years, has just visited Puri with his wife, Nadira. First stop: the Lord Jagannath temple. So disgusting did V.S. find the floor that he had an altercation. When he refused to remove his shoes, he was not allowed to enter. On to the equally grubby Kanchipuram temple in Tamil Nadu, where the author implored the priest to let him wear cloth shoes. The request was rejected. A trip to the Lingaraja temple proved no more successful.

"These are architectural marvels but I am shocked to see the extent of neglect," he tells me. "What the British tried to preserve and keep alive, the Indians are throwing away." The streets and paddy fields were little better. "The poverty of Indian streets and the countryside was an affront and a threat," he says. A pariah dog in the streets of Puri didn't help. "It would not stop barking," he complains. "I think it took an instant dislike to me." As might some of his brethren. "He's spent his life in the West Indies and England, so he's not equipped to



Puri show: V.S., Meera

comment on the struggle," says the actress, Meera Sial. "He's a wonderful writer but he's being old and crusty." He won't like that.

WARNING to Gaynor Regan, companion and would-be assistant to our energetic Foreign Secretary. After my disclosure a couple of weeks ago that Robin Cook would celebrate Valentine's Day in Montserrat without Ms Regan, the diary learns that the volcanic

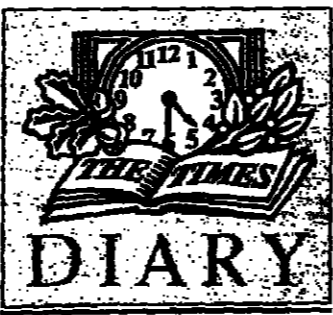
island sells itself to tourists as "the perfect place to fall in love".

## Spooky

JEFFREY ARCHER has given the CIA a security tip, prompting senior spooks to change operational procedures. He showed *The Elephant Amendment*, a thriller he has just finished, to the CIA on a recent trip to Washington. "They want to make one section company policy," Archer suggests. "They wouldn't tell me exactly what but I suspect it is when a character is convinced that the President is on the other telephone line." The spooks found 20 mistakes in his manuscript.

Archer's research also took him to St Petersburg, where he spent a week with the Russian mafia. "They are jobs but they wouldn't let me meet their Mr Big. The average age of a living mafia boss is 38, so he probably won't last too long, anyway."

GIFTS showered on the late, doleful ballerina Dame Margot Fonteyn by an army of stagedoor Johnnies are to be auctioned at Christie's. As she has no surviving family, proceeds will go to a charity. The most valuable lot is a diamond cluster brooch, expected to fetch more than £6,000. For £200,



JASPER GERARD

tutu fetishists can also avail themselves of a pair of Margot's pink block-toe ballet shoes, one of which is inscribed SBR Fonteyn (*Sleeping Beauty, Right!*).

## In to lunch

POOR Sir Edward Heath was poorer for refusing to pay tribute to Enoch Powell upon his recent death; Baroness Thatcher alarmed squeamish Tories with her warm eulogy. But what does that other former Tory Prime Minister, John Major, think? He, I can disclose, has written a warm letter of condolence to Powell's widow, Pamela, and here breaks his public silence on Powell's legacy to the *Diary*.

"Compelling" is his typically balanced judgment. "His influence far exceeded the political posts which he held. His economic thinking set the pattern for many of the successful economic policies of the 1980s and 1990s."

Neither Major nor Thatcher elevated Powell to the Lords. It is widely believed that Powell refused a life peerage, craving instead a hereditary honour. In fact, Powell realised that the hereditary award would never be bestowed upon him. "Enoch made clear to me that he would have taken a life peerage," says a former colleague. "Margaret refused to offer him one. She thought he would be too dangerous in the Lords." Pamela was especially keen for her husband to find employment. "She was fed up with him mooching around the house," says a friend. "Pam married him in sickness and in health, but not for lunch."

THE DEATH of Diana, Princess of Wales, is to be the subject of a one-woman play by the scriptwriter Kay Mellor. Her previous work *Band of Gold*, a TV saga about prostitutes. Touching Heaven features a soap star moping around during the princess's funeral. "It's like a comparison between two divas," says Mellor. Seats have not been reserved for the Windsors.



AS THE Middle East warms with megalomaniac and madmen, it is to receive a visitor: Mona Barwans, David Mellor's old chum, who will interview the beguiling Benazir Bhutto, and two widows of assassinated leaders: Leah Rabin and Zahra Sadat, all pictured above with the blonde temptress. The author's book on espionage, *Her take on espionage*, is a different kind of espionage. Her take on espionage is a different kind of espionage. Her take on espionage is a different kind of espionage.

comment on the struggle," says the actress, Meera Sial. "He's a wonderful writer but he's being old and crusty." He won't like that.

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صكازمان الاجل



# A CLASH OF RIGHTS

Existing freedoms will suffer unless the Rights Bill is altered

Privacy is a human need which deserves protection. Yet needs like rights can conflict. The Human Rights Bill, to be debated in the Commons this afternoon, will transfer from Parliament to the courts the responsibility for deciding how important conflicting rights may best be reconciled. Before Parliament transfers that responsibility by simple use of this Government's mandate and majority, it should ensure that some precious freedoms do not become casualties of future conflicts. The Commons should endeavour to amend the legislation designed by the Lord Chancellor. Otherwise provisions on privacy, and other elements in the Bill, will fetter independent institutions, which are the mark of a free society.

The area where the Bill is most in need of improvement is its provision to turn voluntary institutions into "public authorities" whose proceedings can be challenged in the courts. The Commons is in danger of, as William Hague put it, replacing "the rule of law with the rule of lawyers".

Newspaper editors regulate their conduct through a voluntary body, the Press Complaints Commission, where individuals can secure speedy redress, apologies and corrections without the expense of going to law. Editors are anxious to be seen abiding by the code. It is widely recognised to have improved press behaviour. Under the present PCC that improvement will continue.

The Human Rights Bill was not originally intended to embrace the workings of the PCC. Article 8, which defends the right to personal privacy, was supposed to guard the citizen from the excesses of the State. But the Lord Chancellor has made clear that he considers the PCC as a "public authority" to be governed by the Bill even though it is a voluntary association. He defends the PCC's inclusion within the Bill's remit as a public authority because it is good for the citizen, giving him wider redress, and good for newspapers, by allowing the press rather than courts to do the regulating. He and his supporters are wrong on both counts.

If the PCC has new powers heaped on it by the Bill, it will break. Editors who have vol-

untarily submitted to its strictures will not willingly accept its mutation into a new body, with decisions reviewable in the courts, placing new restraints on publication. Why, editors might ask, run the risk of adverse judgments in the PCC if they can limit their exposure to those with the money to go to law? The citizen will be denied the use of a tribunal which at present works cheaply and effectively. And they will be thrust into the hands of lawyers whose fees most cannot afford.

The Prime Minister has made it clear he does not wish to see the freedom of the press curtailed by privacy laws, behind which the powerful can hide wrongdoing. A restatement of the Government's views during the course of today's debate would be helpful. But the best way of demonstrating the earnest of his intent would be an amendment to the Bill. The ideal alteration would make it clear that voluntary organisations which do not have statutory powers should not be considered public authorities. That would respect both the right of individuals and associations to the autonomy they should, anyway, enjoy in civil society as well as preserving the PCC in workable form.

If such a move were considered a step too far, then the Government might create an exemption for certain bodies which meet certain standards to be reviewed, from time to time, by ministers. That would allow future Governments to consider how effective the PCC was in ensuring self-regulation worked.

In the Data Protection Bill newspapers are exempt from certain provisions provided they act in accordance with a code approved by the Secretary of State. It is not an ideal compromise but it should prove workable. Newspapers do not wish to set themselves above the law. Judges may develop, over time, their own version of a privacy law. That is a matter for the courts. What Parliament can and must do is ensure that it does not construct a law which will so privilege an abstract commitment to privacy as to damage the existing protection citizens enjoy and the existing freedoms readers cherish.

# INCONTROVERTIBLE PRINCIPLE

Weasel words will not advance an Ulster settlement

Semantics as much as substance have often seemed to shape the Ulster peace process. The particular nature of Irish history suggests that the distinction between the two is not as sharp as many might assume. At the outset of the first IRA ceasefire, the word "permanent" became a matter of forensic interest. After that, the phrase "decommissioning" made its appearance. It now seems that the superficially stark term "incontrovertible" will receive similar treatment. For this is the basis upon which objection will be raised to the expulsion of Sinn Féin from the multi-party talks — a decision that will surely be signalled today.

The facts are straightforward. Ronnie Flanagan, the RUC Chief Constable, informed Mo Mowlam on Friday that all available evidence implicated the IRA in the murders of Robert Dougan and Brendan Campbell. Mr Flanagan is a character with a reputation for straight talk, and a sophisticated awareness of the political implications of these cases. If he had sensed even the smallest chance that the issue of responsibility for these killings might be ambiguous, he would have exercised considerable caution. The Secretary of State has no reason to dispute his assessment.

Nor can it be said that these developments are surprising. For the last several weeks, the IRA has been back in business by proxy. The INLA cannot kill without the effective blessing of the IRA command. It is inconceivable that the murder of Billy Wright in The Maze prison last year would have come as an unwelcome shock to the Republican hierarchy. The IRA's preferred position has been that of intense involve-

ment in the peace process and selective activity in the murder market. This has now become embarrassingly obvious.

These transparent activities have not halted the appeals of those who think the peace process has no purpose without Sinn Féin's participation. John Hume and others but not all within the SDLP, appear to regard the word of the IRA as more credible than that of the Chief Constable. They have hinted that in this instance, unlike the multiple murders of Catholics associated with the Ulster Freedom Fighters, there is not "incontrovertible evidence" of IRA orchestration. If they believe Mr Flanagan is an idiot or a liar, they should say so and prove it. If not, they must abandon the politics of double standards.

If the extraordinary definition of "incontrovertible proof" outlined by Mr Hume yesterday were accepted, then it is almost impossible to imagine any incident that could be placed at the IRA's door except an atrocity that they officially admitted. The peace process cannot proceed on that basis. It may be considered inconvenient, but the IRA have been rumbled. It would be a mockery if that was not acted upon.

Once that determination has been made, it should be respected. The IRA have smashed one ceasefire and more subtly sabotaged another. The notion that Sinn Féin could be suspended for six weeks and then re-admitted after "good behaviour" is contemptible. The objective of the peace process must be a proposal acceptable to an impressive majority of Ulster's population. The IRA Army Council should not have a veto over those voters.

# BRAVE BIG BRITANNIA

Never mind the sex of the Millennium statue, admire the size

Two statues started their monumental lives yesterday. As we report elsewhere, the largest cranes in Britain have begun hoisting the Angel of the North into place. And the first intimation of the contents of the Millennium Dome at Greenwich disclosed that their centrepiece will be a gigantic statue. When they are completed, these will be by far the biggest statues in Britain.

Gigantism is a fashion that stretches from the Colossus of Rhodes to Mount Rushmore. Pheidias created the vast Athena in the Parthenon in order to inspire visitors with awe and to stun them with the power and wealth of his patrons. Gutzon Borglum was out to carve a national shrine for democracy.

Today such crude imperial hubris is both out of fashion and unrealistic. Gigantic political messages are unwelcome except in Baghdad. And representational sculpture has been rendered problematic by modernism and the widespread adoption of trousers instead of breeches or togas. For even the best tailored trousers look silly in marble or bronze. So the Gateshead angel is faceless and neutral about sex (as is appropriate for an angel). It will add a spectacular vision to travellers on the A1 and the East Coast main railway line, who already enjoy distant prospects of the finest cathedrals. The need to make a big statue is still with us. For those who like a message with their

monuments, the Angel of the North proclaims the steel and ambition of manufacturing in the North East. But it also signals that here is the boundary of a different country, the lands of Bede and Columba on the one hand and the largest shopping complex in Britain on the other.

The gigantic statue in the Millennium Dome is also programmed to become one of the best-known monumental images. One plan being floated is for a statue of mother and child. Millions would interpret her as the supreme Christian icon of madonna and child. But visitors will be able to travel around inside her to observe the mysteries of biology and the "facts of life" that the British have such trouble with explaining.

The choice of a monumental female figure instead of a Millennium Man might be interpreted by some as political correctness, like her silver skin colour. For others she will simply be Britannia. Such a Greenwich mother of all statues could be taken as a signal that post-millennial thinking may be shaped by women as well as men. The statue is due to come down with the dome, unless she/he/it gets a popular remission after the anniversary like the Eiffel Tower and the Crystal Palace. But neither the Gateshead angel nor the Greenwich mother, father or androgyne will stand for as long as the cathedrals that celebrated the first millennium.

# Community care and mental health

From Mrs Virginia Bottomley, MP for Surrey South West (Conservative)

Sir, I welcome the fact that the Government is to review the Mental Health Act 1983. Anti-psychotic drugs have transformed the options for the treatment of the mentally ill, who should continue to be cared for in the community where this is appropriate. However, this policy has become devilled by a series of problems:

1. There remains a deplorable level of ignorance and prejudice about the nature of mental illness. This applies, often at senior levels, amongst policy-makers, professionals, the media and even ministers.

2. Such are the financial pressures on the NHS that mental health is often the easiest budget to raid. Effective care in the community cannot be delivered without proper investment. Problems are compounded by the boundary disputes and cost-shifting between health, social services, the private and voluntary sectors.

3. While there has been a welcome expansion of professionals — more community psychiatric nurses, more psychiatrists, better-educated GPs — these additional staff are too often dedicated to patients with milder conditions. Those with serious mental disorders, often with associated alcohol and drug problems and peripatetic lifestyles, are rarely regarded as "good" patients.

4. Civil liberties advocates, who were so influential in resisting the powerful institutions, have failed to recognise that the pendulum has now swung too far. When I first proposed supervision registers and a new power of supervised discharge, this was met with howls of dismay that patients' rights would be overlooked; such measures were described as punitive or coercive. It is often too difficult to obtain crisis services or an order restraining a patient.

We should learn from the childcare experience. When fashion and compassion dictated that children at risk should not needlessly be separated from their families, it took professionals and the community decades to learn that supervising and caring for a child at home needed new disciplines. Until stringent explicit procedures were established we faced a deplorable series of child-abuse incidents.

In an institution an individual can be monitored 24 hours a day. In the community reporting and fail-safe mechanisms are necessary if tragedies are to be avoided.

Yours faithfully,  
VIRGINIA BOTTOMLEY  
Secretary of State for Health,  
1992-95,  
House of Commons,  
February 12.

# Caution on Iraq

From the Reverend J. Johansen-Berg and others

Sir, We write to express our opposition to the production, use, or threat of use of biological or nuclear weapons by any nation.

We support the UN programme to carry out inspections of possible sites of such weapon production in Iraq (letters, February 9, 10, 14).

We oppose the threat by the US and UK Governments to initiate military attacks on Iraq because the people of Iraq will endure further suffering; there will inevitably be civilian casualties; there is no international consensus for such action and military action is not an effective instrument for solving such problems.

We support continued diplomatic and other non-military measures to overcome defiance of UN agreed policies, using a widely representative international team. We urge support of such policies by the UK Government.

Yours sincerely,  
JOHN JOHANSEN-BERG,  
Moderator of the United Reformed Church General Assembly, 1980-81  
BERNARD GREEN,  
General Secretary,  
Baptist Union of Great Britain, 1982-91,  
KENNETH GREET,  
President of the Methodist Conference, 1980-81,  
Barnes Close,  
Chadwich, Bromsgrove,  
Worcestershire B61 0RA,  
February 14.

From the Reverend C. M. Jones

Sir, I am appalled by the ease with which our nation seems to be drifting towards the use of force against Iraq. I entirely agree that Saddam Hussein's stocks of chemical and biological weapons must be monitored effectively, but I have not yet heard a convincing explanation of the strategic coherence between the political objectives sought and the military options under consideration.

I cannot help suspecting that conviction of the justice of the cause, combined with possession of massive air-strike capability by the United States, has overridden prudential and moral evaluation of means in relation to ends.

It is to be hoped that representatives of our Government are exercising greater restraint behind the scenes than they appear to be doing in public.

Yours faithfully,  
CHRISTOPHER JONES  
(Chaplain),  
St Peter's College,  
Oxford OX1 2DL,  
February 14.

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

## Price competition in newspapers under examination

From Mr John Taylor

Sir, From your recent reports (February 10, 11, 12) it seems that the Government is under pressure to pursue a policy of "leather bedding". The Independent by curtailing The Times's policy of cutting its prices to outsell its rivals — hitherto a widespread business practice generally regarded as advantageous to the consumer.

What, then, will be the Government's attitude to the many free sheets throughout the country, whose gratis distribution is aimed at achieving questionable circulation figures in excess of traditionally priced local newspapers in order to divert the advertising revenues of the latter into their own columns?

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN TAYLOR  
(Editor, British Style,  
2 Beacon Hill, N7 9LY,  
February 12.

From the Editor of Incentive Today

Sir, If there was a single promotional-marketing expert among the peers who voted in the Lords report, February 10) for tough new controls aimed to outlaw Rupert Murdoch's sustained newspaper price war, he or she would know that price promo-

tions have been an element of the marketing mix for almost as long as any other promotional offer used to drive sales.

Apart from the difficulty in proving whether or not price-cut promotions are "predatory", it would be nonsense to try to ban price promotion of The Times without banning price promotions in every other product sector, including cans of beans. In overturning the House of Lords vote the Labour Government would be right to recognise that product marketing is a fiercely competitive business and price promotions are a legitimate part of it.

Yours faithfully,  
CHARLES FORD,  
Editor, Incentive Today,  
Miller Freeman plc,  
630 Chiswick High Road, W4 5BG,  
February 13.

From Mr John Hartley

Sir, Your leading article of February 10, "Enemies of success", was timely and measured. Under the pretext of militating against "predatory pricing" — which sounds a very good thing to an old-age pensioner such as myself — many of the Lords who spoke in the debate on February 9 talked nonsense.

The trouble with most of those who

preach competition is that they have so little practical experience of it. Lord Ackner, a law lord at the pinnacle of the most anti-competitive profession on Earth, utters platitudes about competition: these echo the Bar Council's absurd view that, in effect, every member of the Bar is in competition with every other. Yet until recently right of audience in the High Court was accorded only to members of the Bar, apart from the infant in person. There was no law against it, in the sense of an Act of Parliament: merely a rule of the Supreme Court, made, of course, by the judges.

That Lord Borrie, for years Director General of Fair Trading, should use emotive words such as "predatory pricing" is equally absurd. If The Independent's impending demise as a result of The Times's predatory pricing displeases him, perhaps he would care to find the readers necessary to put it on its feet again? Or perhaps the existing Liberal Democrat readers could be persuaded to pay dramatically over the odds for the paper's pitiful humberg?

I fervently hope you will stick to your guns.

Yours faithfully,  
J. L. A. HARTLEY,  
40 Winchester Court, W8 4AE,  
February 11.

## Reform of the Lords

From the Marquess of Bath

Sir, I believe that the House of Lords, in its reformed state, should reflect the regional divisions within the United Kingdom as a whole.

The hereditary peers should be replaced by delegations not only from Scotland, Wales and Ireland, but also from the English regions — eight of them I would suggest, each with its own assembly, and on the basis of a delegation of between 10 and 25 life peers per region; perhaps proportionally to the population of each. They should in any case be elected (indirectly) from the floor of that regional assembly, to sit alongside whatever number of life peers from the United Kingdom as a whole might be regarded as appropriate. Their chief responsibility would be to represent their region in the House.

Such a system would lend gravity to the role of the regional assemblies, so

that local young politicians would perceive it as their route towards national influence, by promotion from their particular regional assembly to a House of Lords which could by then be entrusted with extended powers.

Speaking as one of the hereditary peers who will soon (quite rightly) be deprived of our seats in that House, I shall relinquish mine the more happily if we are to be replaced by life peers so elected.

Sincerely,  
BATH,  
Longleat House,  
Warminster, Wiltshire BA12 7NN,  
February 8.

From Mr T. Dommett

Sir, Viscount Runciman (letter, February 11) questions whether the most suitable potential members would stand for election to the second chamber, and whether those who do stand would succeed in getting elected. In the former case, the

## Stars for achievement

From Professor Paul Black

Sir, Your leading article (February 6) on the work on school assessment by Dr Dylan William and myself gave us "Two out of ten". Since you argued that low marks are a spur to greater achievement, we have to respond.

In our study we selected, from over 600 reports, those with findings backed by rigorous evidence. So when we argued that giving pupils explicit advice about how to improve their work is a more effective spur than giving them marks, we based this claim on studies in which some pupils had been taught the one way and some the other. Those given explicit advice showed much higher learning gains than those given marks.

Neither group was, to quote your concern, cocooned from reality — indeed, the marks for the tests given at the end provided the essential evidence on which our conclusions were based. What is at issue is not that such test performance should be ignored, but about the best means to enhance it.

You chide "educationalists who want the world to be a different place". We want the world to be a place in which fewer young people are trapped by the low achievement characteristic of our present education. If this is to happen, something has to change.

We have set out evidence that a range of changes, of which marking practices were but one, have actually

## Home delivery

From Dr Sasha Morris

Sir, I was entranced to watch my daughter tap into the Internet her weekly order for all her food and cleaning requirements from a leading supermarket. She told me that it would be delivered by van the following morning.

"Wonderful," I thought, until I remembered that my grandmother in Glasgow, between the wars, used to telephone her "grocer" in the morning and have her order delivered only two hours later by a boy on a bicycle. Have we really moved forward?

Yours faithfully,  
SASHA MORRIS,  
19 Chessington Lodge,  
Regents Park Road, N3 3AA.

## A question of jobs

From Mrs D. C. M. Wilson

Sir, The answer to Mr Geoffrey Treharne (letter, February 9) on the £43 million of government cash to secure the production of a new Jaguar car in Britain (report, February 3) is that "the media, or anyone else" realise that bread has to be earned before it can be made into toast Melba.

Yours faithfully,  
DOREEN WILSON,  
70 Long Road, Framingham Earl,  
Norwich, Norfolk NR14 7RZ,  
February 10.

## Collision course

From Mr M. G. H. Dillon

Sir, Judging by the contradictory correspondence (February 7, 12) from mariners on the subject of helm orders, it is surprising that there are not more collisions at sea.

The order given to the helmsman of the Titanic was apparently "Hard a-starboard". The intention was to turn the ship's head to port. The effect was the same because all the damage was sustained on the starboard side.

The film shows the helmsman turning the wheel to port and the ship's head moving to port. The convention for issuing helm orders was changed in 1933 so that the direction of the order was the same as that in which it was desired to turn the ship's head.

If the steering mechanism of ships was reversed as well at this time, as Captain K. M. MacKenzie states (February 12), the portrayal of the scene is wrong. If only the convention for issuing orders was changed, as the Oxford Companion to Ships and the Sea (1976) has it (before the mid-1930s, "hard a-starboard" meant "turn the wheel to port"), the film is correct.

All parties would probably agree that the expression "Full starboard rudder", mentioned by Rear-Admiral J. F. Perowne (February 7), is unauthoritative from a British point of view and incorrect in its effect.

Yours faithfully,  
M. G. H. DILLON,  
113 South Avenue,  
Abingdon, Oxfordshire OX14 1QS,  
February 12.

## Popular demand?

From Mrs Jo Birkbeck

Sir, Unable to purchase a particular novel by George Targent, I ordered it from the public library at Norwich. They informed me their only copy was with the Prison Library Service and not for loan. The title? The Triumph of Vice.

Yours faithfully,  
J. BIRKBECK,  
330 Dereham Road,  
Norwich, Norfolk NR2 4DL,  
February 14.

## Secret Basingstoke

From Miss V. C. Collin-Russ

Sir, Basingstoke an unlikely venue for international intrigue (report, "A roundabout choice for spies", February 13) Gilbert and Sullivan fans know otherwise.

In Ruddigore Mad Margaret claims that the very word Basingstoke "means with hidden meaning".

Yours faithfully,  
VALERIE COLLIN-RUSS,  
Flat 7, 20 Hampden Gurney Street,  
London W1F 5AL,  
February 13.



صحة من الاجل

OBITUARIES

HAROUN TAZIEFF

Haroun Tazieff, volcanologist, died on February 2 aged 63. He was born on May 11, 1914.

Haroun Tazieff was probably the best-known name in post-war volcanology. To say that he popularised volcanoes, particularly in his adopted France, is to belittle a man who became a kind of Patrick Moore of volcanology — and also ended up with a prominent position in the Mitterrand Government.

Although always an amateur at heart, he awakened an enthusiasm and interest in active volcanoes that swept across France, and the effects are far-reaching even now. It is probably due to him that public finance for volcanological research in France became greater than in any country outside the United States, and created the present generation of brilliant French researchers. Like his beloved volcanoes, Tazieff could by turns be unpredictable, destructive and, above all, monumentally impressive. He was widely respected by his public.

An adventurer and a wanderer by nature, he was born in Warsaw to a Russian father and a Polish mother. His father died when Haroun was an infant, and the boy was brought up in St Petersburg before moving with his mother (a powerful influence on him) to Brussels, where he found himself in the Resistance and on the run from the Germans in the latter stages of the Second World War.

Sitting in the back of university geology lectures offered him both relief from boredom and a good hide-out from his pursuers, and those lectures were his first introduction to his lifelong passion. After studying agriculture and geology at the University of Liège, in 1948 he manoeuvred his way into an expedition to the active cone of Kituro in central Africa, and quickly realised the possibilities of bringing to the general public.

From 1950 to 1952 he was assistant professor of mining geology at the University of Brussels, but he spent much of the latter 1950s visiting erupting volcanoes around the world and filming them from a great deal closer than had previously been deemed advisable. Great fame came suddenly in 1959, with the release of his film *Les Rendez-vous du Diable*, usually known in English as *Volcano!*

The film made a huge impression when it was shown as a supporting feature at cinemas throughout the world. It was in colour and filmed close to erupting volcanoes from



different continents, bringing the sights and sounds of a volcanic eruption to millions for the first time. Thereafter, a stream of popular books and films followed. Tazieff also acquired a reputation of having "a nose" for active volcanoes and how they might behave, and began to be consulted by worried governments with wayward volcanoes.

An unforgettable sequence from his most famous film shows Tazieff inside the crater of Stromboli volcano, standing a few metres from fountains of fire shooting out of the ground beside him. His legendary luck and this daredevil side to his character would escape from time to time, despite all his effort to keep within the limits of good safety procedures.

He was once seen with the top half of a heat-protective suit on, leaning over the edge of a small crater that had recently appeared in the side of Mount Etna. The crater blew up in

his face, removing his protective suit and helmet, neither of which were ever found again, but he escaped with slight burns to his nose that he was able to pass off as sunburn to his wife a week later. In fact, he was unusually safety-conscious for his time, and a prominent fighter for his generally agreed code of conduct for volcanologists.

Moving to France in the 1960s he gathered around him a group of young researchers into volcanic gases. His 150 scientific papers were a major achievement, and he rose to become head of research and subsequently Director of the French National Council of Scientific Research; but he was never entirely at ease with the academic world, and was always happiest close to an erupting volcano with the spice of danger all around.

Many who now find a volcano to be the unexpected mistress of their lives began their volcanological careers with Tazieff and his team on one of

his trips to Etna during his "Belle Epoque". The team always consisted of a majority of Alpine mountaineers who acted as "shepards", and accommodation would be as close to the top of the volcano as possible, at first in the old observatory near the crater, and later camping or bivouacking near the summit after the observatory was destroyed in the 1971 eruption. A sense of careful fun and adventure pervaded these trips, with mountaineering, scientific research, good food and wine, music and games of scratch rugby forming part of the daily ritual, with Tazieff always at the centre of things, dispensing his easy charm and telling stirring tales of past adventures.

At the same time, he was a man who could be unforgotably pugilistic towards those with whom he disagreed (he had been a redoubtable amateur boxer in his youth). After one or two incidents in which he made public criticisms of other

scientists and authorities in the 1970s, the volcanic crisis at La Soufriere volcano on the French island of Guadeloupe in 1976 proved a turning point in his life. After a dramatic increase in earthquakes and steam explosions, the island's Governor decided to evacuate the area, fearing a catastrophic eruption. Tazieff publicly announced, correctly as events proved, that there was no danger to the populated areas lower down the volcano and that the enormous expense of the evacuation was a waste of money.

In the midst of this geopolitical furor, he fearlessly took his team to the top to sample gases, only to be caught in a major steam explosion. He and everyone in his team were injured by rocks thrown out, and they were very lucky to escape without fatalities. Political events mirrored volcanic: his public criticisms this time had been a step too far and, on returning to France, he was removed from his post. Tazieff felt the insult deeply.

He made further controversial public pronouncements in the years that followed: one spectacularly correct, in the case of the fatal explosion at Mount Etna in September 1979; another just as spectacularly incorrect, in the case of the Mount St Helens eruption of May 1980 in the United States. Increasingly, however, his talent for controversy found expression in the political sphere.

He had been active in politics at the local level in the 1960s, and later became Mayor of the town of Mirmande, near Grenoble, where he lived. He also served as a councillor for the Rhône-Alpes region. Once a Communist, he was no longer so after life in the USSR, but his sympathies were always on the Left, and he began giving public support to the Socialist presidential campaign in the early 1980s. When President Mitterrand was elected, he rewarded Tazieff, who remained a well-known and popular public figure with a post as Secretary of State with responsibility for preventing natural disasters in France.

Tazieff became a prominent — and far from predictable — participant in ecological and environmental debates in France. His new job took him away from volcanoes for much of the rest of his life and, although he broke with many of his old friends, he felt vindicated and enjoyed a new and final period of fulfilment in his government position.

Haroun Tazieff's first wife predeceased him. He is survived by his second wife, France, whom he married in 1938.

JILL ALLIBONE

Jill Allibone, architectural historian and campaigner, died on February 3 aged 65. She was born on April 26, 1932.

INTELLECTUAL clarity, convictions strongly held and forcefully expressed, and an abhorrence of compromise are hallmarks of all campaigners. Jill Allibone had all of these, but she also had a no-nonsense practicality and a willingness to tackle problems which others had dismissed as intractable.

Jill Spencer Rigden was born in Abadan, Iran, where her father managed an oil refinery. Initially sent to school in England, she returned to Abadan on the outbreak of the Second World War. When Abadan itself was threatened, she was sent to South Africa but returned to England after the war, completing her schooling at the Godolphin School, Salisbury. In 1954, after studying fine art at St Martin's School of Art, she transferred to the Courtauld Institute to study the history of art.

In 1956 she married David Allibone, a solicitor, and successfully took her finals when eight months' pregnant. After graduating, she worked with her husband, and became a JP on the South Westminster bench in 1966. In the following year they bought a house in Benenden, Kent, where their ten-acre garden became their chief pastime.

In 1967 Jill Allibone's latent interest in architectural history reasserted itself, and she enrolled, with Nikolaus Pevsner as her supervisor, to read for a doctorate at the Courtauld. Her subject was Anthony Salvin (1820-80), a pioneer of the archaeologically correct Gothic Revival, restorer of (among others) Windsor Castle, and the architect of the now derelict Thoresby Hall in Lincolnshire.

A book based on her thesis was published in 1987. Four years later came a biography of the architect George Devey (1820-86), who, though he worked in a very different style, was an exact contemporary of Salvin and also suffered an early eclipse. These meticulously researched

books led to a reassessment of both men, and to more attention and care being paid to their surviving work. In the preface to the Salvin biography, Allibone wrote: "The continuous threat to Victorian buildings through greed and ignorance is a fact that cannot for an instant be ignored if we are to have anything of merit to hand down to our grandchildren." This feeling, passionately held, led to her increasing involvement



with active campaigning, especially in the Victorian Society, which had been founded by Pevsner and others in 1958. She joined its buildings sub-committee in 1977 and was elected vice-chairman in 1995.

She was one of the most active participants, willing not just to offer advice but to take on important cases, particularly churches in Kent, for which she fought with vigour. In 1993 she single-handedly persuaded the Commissary General of the Canterbury diocese to refuse permission to St Luke's, Maidstone, to remove its fine Arts and Crafts pews (though the judgment was overturned on appeal).

In 1996, with characteristic energy, she set up a trust to address the problem of maintaining monuments and mausolea of architectural importance where the owning family had either died out or lost interest. The Monuments and Mausolea Trust has taken over the ownership of five mausolea, and the search for funding for their restoration and maintenance is in hand.

She is survived by her husband and three daughters.

CARLO ALBERTO CHIESA

Carlo Alberto Chiesa, Italian antiquarian bookseller, died on January 25 aged 71. He was born on September 7, 1926.

KNOWN well beyond his own country, Carlo Alberto Chiesa was the leading antiquarian bookseller and the finest connoisseur of rare books and manuscripts in Italy. He was born in Milan, the son of Pietro Chiesa and Carolina Arrigoni. His father was a master artist in glass, the founder of Fontana Arte (which still exists), and a cultivated collector and designer who collaborated with Marzò and Sirioni.

After school in Milan, Chiesa proceeded to the university to read law, but he never graduated. From 1950 to 1952 he lived in Paris, then as now a great centre for collectors and booksellers. Among the latter he was particularly close to Georges Hellmann, Marc Lohé and his compatriot Galanti, who was said to have quantities of superb books piled up in his minute apartment. These years in Paris were decisive in forming Chiesa's taste. He learnt his trade there, and began to deal in books and manuscripts.

On his return to Milan he opened his first shop in 1955 in Piazza Sant'Erasmo, moving in 1956 to rooms facing a courtyard in a Renaissance palazzo in Via Bigli. Here he remained, publishing no catalogues but compiling long and erudite descriptions of the books he had for sale. He



supplied major books to many notable collectors, including Otto Schäfer, of Schweinfurt, Giuseppe Ghersi, of Zürich, and Gianalisa Faldini. In close collaboration with W. H. Jackson, Harvard's "grand accumulator", and later with Roger Stoddard, he built up the Houghton Library's holdings of Italian literature.

His connoisseurship spanned the whole range of Italian book production, but the 15th and 16th centuries were of especial interest to him. His taste was individual. He preferred, for example, the Venetian printers Francesco Marcolini and Niccolò d'Arsenale, to Zappino, the far better known Aldine press. He was a regular attendee at the major auctions in Paris, London and New York, and a brave bidder, latterly defeating all competition to win back Prezzi's *Quattrino*, the masterpiece of Florentine woodcut illustration.

His knowledge was much in demand. He served as one of the original trustees of the Premio Felice Feliciano, which rewarded works of bibliography and was founded in memory of the great German-Italian printer Giovanni Mardersteig. He acted as adviser on conservation to the Biblioteca Ambrosiana, and represented both Italy and the antiquarian booksellers on the Council of the International Bibliophiles' Association. But these public duties were minor by comparison with his services to individuals. He had a wide international circle of devoted friends, captivated by his sweetness of character. No request for help from distant or visiting scholars was ever refused. Abstract questions were answered, references books were found and dispatched (payment usually being rejected), access to minor libraries was arranged and custodians were assured that their visitors could be trusted to handle rare volumes. Tammaro de Marinis, the veteran bookseller, bibliophile and bibliographer, regarded Chiesa in some ways as a successor, and Chiesa willingly accompanied him on his journeys.

In 1961 Chiesa married Elena De Hirschel. The marriage was an extremely happy one. Visitors to Milan were generously and charmingly entertained by the Chiesa, at meals enlivened by Carlo Alberto's delicious sense of humour and anecdotes of the book world. He is survived by his wife and their four sons.

Professor John Goligher, chairman of the department of surgery at Leeds University, 1954-77, died on January 18 aged 85. He was born on March 13, 1912.

JOHN GOLIGHER was one of the great figures in British surgery. He had an enormous dedication to his discipline and the well-being of his patients. He enjoyed a national and international reputation, and was considered by many to be the pre-eminent colon and rectal surgeon of his time.

John Cedric Goligher was born in Londonderry, Northern Ireland, where he was educated at Foyle College. He chose the University of Edinburgh for his medical studies and graduated MB, ChB in 1934. He was appointed to a house officer post at the Royal Infirmary in Edinburgh, and gained the Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons both of Scotland and of England in 1938. In 1948 he became a Master of Surgery (ChM) of the University of Edinburgh.

In the early years of the Second World War he was first house surgeon and subsequently resident surgical officer at St Mark's Hospital, then a small postgraduate hospital in London specialising in diseases of the colon and rectum (now St Mark's Hospital, Northwick Park). Thus began an association which was to continue through 43 years as an honorary consultant (later emeritus) surgeon to St Mark's.

PROFESSOR JOHN GOLIGHER

In 1941 Goligher began a five-year tour in the Royal Army Medical Corps. He was a surgical specialist and, being a paratrooper, was officer-in-charge of an airborne surgical team serving in both Greece and Italy. He rose to the rank of lieutenant-colonel. After his military service, he had a short spell as a senior registrar at St Mary's Hospital. In 1947 he was appointed honorary assistant surgeon to St Mark's and St Mary's hospitals.

In 1954, having established himself firmly in London surgical practice, he made the relatively unconventional, yet far-sighted, move to become professor of surgery at the university department of surgery at the General Infirmary at Leeds. There he had a distinguished career as a clinical academic and writer and, above all, as a thoughtful and hardworking surgeon. Over the next 23 years his department became a leading centre of academic gastro-intestinal surgery.

Goligher trained many young surgeons who were to become leaders in colorectal surgery at home and abroad, instilling in them a fierce loyalty to him and his techniques. His unit received a constant stream of visitors — both young surgeons in training and those already established. The specially constructed viewing gallery in his theatre was rarely empty through the sometimes marathon Monday and Thursday operating sessions. Many of



the foreign visitors returned to their own countries to develop units along similar lines to that which they had observed in Leeds. Goligher ensured that his clinical work was always critically evaluated and methodically audited. He enriched academic surgery by his analytical skills and his scrupulous honesty of reporting. His often pioneering work resulted in the publication of many papers and contributions to surgical meetings at home and overseas.

Goligher was in great demand as a visiting professor and lecturer in Europe, North America and at home. He was a powerful speaker whose enthusiasm for his subject was

translations, this reference book became the most influential text in the field. Goligher's supreme ability as a clinician underpinned all that he did in other areas. He dispensed the highest standard of care and rightly expected the same from those around him. A shy and somewhat self-effacing man, he was held in affection both by his staff and by his patients. An occasion on which he went out at lunchtime to buy books for a chronically ill young boy in his care was typical of his kindness. In retirement he established a most successful private practice.

Goligher served on the council of the Royal College of Surgeons in England for 12 years (1968-80); was president of the Royal Society of Medicine Section of Proctology (1962); president of the Association of Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland (1974); and president of the British Society of Gastroenterology (1975). Honorary fellowships and doctorates from around the world reflected the esteem in which he was held by his professional peers.

His interests outside surgery included reading, classical music and — appropriately for an intestinal specialist — gastroenterology and oenology. His speed of driving was well known, and feared by all who had travelled with him.

In 1952 he married Nancy Williams, an Australian whom he met when she was an Almoner on his ward at St Mary's. She survives him with their son and two daughters.

Church news

Recent church appointments include: The Rev Peter Bowles, Team Rector, Cleve (Stampton and Loundsey Green (Derby)) to be Priest-in-Charge, Hope and Castleton, Bradwell St Barnabas (same diocese). The Rev Christopher Harrison, Priest-in-Charge, Ferry Bentley, Kiveton, Thorpe and Tinstington; Parwich with Alsop-on-the-Dale (Derby), to be also Rural Dean of Ashbourne (same diocese). The Rev Steve Hellyer, Curate, Nottingham St Nicholas (Southwell), to be Priest-in-Charge, Oxford St Matthew (Oxford). The Rev Michael Hills, Team Vicar, Seaton Hirst with special responsibility for St Andrew (Newcastle), to be Chaplain to the Rev Stephen Huckle, Vicar, Ferry Stratford (Oxford), to be Vicar, Stribley The Ascension (Birmingham). The Rev Keith Justice, Assistant

Curate, Dowercourt and Parkeston with Haverhill (Chelmsford), to be Vicar, Wentworth, and part-time Curate, Rotherham District General Hospital (Sheffield). The Rev Carol Kitchener, NSM, Biggin Hill (Rochester), to be also part-time Assistant Chaplain, Bromley NHS Trust (same diocese). The Rev Elizabeth Mason, NSM, Swan Team (Oxford), to be Team Vicar, same benefice. Canon Robert Parsons, Canon Precentor, Cathedral Church of All Saints, Derby, to be Priest-in-Charge, Belper St Peter (same diocese). The Rev David Paton-Williams, Chaplain, University College of Ripon and York St John, and Minor Canon of Ripon Cathedral, to be Rector, Beldale, and Priest-in-Charge, Learning (same diocese). The Rev Jacques Peal, Curate, Crayford (Rochester), to be Curate, Darford Holy Trinity (same diocese).

The Rev Margaret Saunders, Chaplain, Milton Keynes Hospital (Oxford), to be Curate (known as Associate Rector), Newport Pagnell with Lathbury and Moulsoe (same diocese). The Rev James Stewart, Curate, The Fountain Gate (Ripon), to be Vicar, Catterick (same diocese). The Rev Tina Surling, Curate (Team Vicar designate), Thame with Towsey (Oxford), to be Priest-in-Charge, Brill, Boarstall, Chilton and Dorton (same diocese). The Rev Ainsley Swift, Assistant Curate, Pressot (Liverpool), to be Team Vicar, New Windsor St Michael with special responsibility for St Stephen and St Agnes (Oxford). The Rev Tony Tooby, Curate, Ollerton with Boughton (Southwell), to be Vicar, Gillingham (Bradford). The Rev Jeremy Trigge, Team Vicar, Wolverton Holy Trinity and St George the Martyr (Oxford), to be Team Rector, same benefice.

The Rev Richard Tucker, Team Vicar, Dronfield with Holmedine (Derby), to be Vicar, Sutton Coldfield St Columbia (Birmingham). The Rev Tim Tunley, Curate, Knaresborough (Ripon), to be Vicar, Swaledale (same diocese). The Rev Paul Waters, Team Vicar, Wickford and Runwell, and Chaplain, Runwell Hospital (Chelmsford), to be Chaplain, QMC University Hospital NHS Trust (Southwell). Retirements: The Rev Ann Barnett, Vicar, Salsburgh Church at the Centre (Liverpool), on June 30. The Rev Harry Bloomfield, Vicar, Kennington St Swildun (Oxford), on May 31. The Rev John Clarke, NSM, Priest-in-Charge, Stanley All Saints and St Andrew (Derby), on April 3. The Rev Barry Dawson, Vicar, Attenborough St Mary the Virgin (Southwell), on October 31.

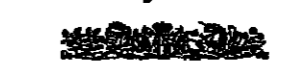
14,000 TONS ON GERMANY DRESDEN AGAIN

AIR BLOWS AFFECT BOTH FRONTS

From Our Aeronautical Correspondent About 14,000 tons of bombs fell on Germany — the vast majority on railway and other transport targets — during the 36 hours ended at dusk last night. They were dropped in a series of coordinated blows by day and night aimed by between 12,000 and 15,000 allied aircraft based in Britain, Italy, Holland, Belgium, and France. The aircraft ranged from the heavy four-engine bombers of R.A.F. Bomber Command and the United States 8th Air Force to the medium and light bombers of the United States 9th Air Force, the fighter-bombers of the allied air forces on the Continent, and the fighters and intruders escorting the great bomber fleets. The eastern and western fronts are now sufficiently close together for blows aimed at effect on both fronts simultaneously, and the targets were selected for that purpose. Dresden, which had been pounded on Tuesday night by 800 of the 1,400 heavies sent out by the R.A.F. and was the main objective for 1,350

ON THIS DAY

February 16, 1945



The destruction of Dresden still arouses controversy. More than 150,000 people were killed in the raids. As well as being condemned on humane grounds, Bomber Command's strategy was questioned.

Fortresses and Liberators on the following day, yesterday received its third heavy attack in 26 hours. It was the principal target for more than 1,100 United States 8th Air Force bombers, some of which bombed another important railway centre — Cottbus — and one of the few remaining German synthetic oil plants at Madgeburg. More than 450 Mustang fighters escorted the bombers. Of the total American force, 15 bombers and six fighters are missing, but some are believed to have landed in friendly territory. The joint planning of the Anglo-American

air offensive had also been shown a few hours earlier, when Bomber Command, for the second night running, sent out over 1,300 heavy bombers, of which 22 are missing, although some may have landed on the Continent. The majority were used for a double attack on Chemnitz, one of the biggest industrial cities in Saxony, which had been heavily bombed in daylight on Wednesday by part of the great fleet of American bombers. Halifax and Lancasters dropped some 70,000 incendiaries. In addition to many 4,000 and 8,000 pounders and other high-explosive bombs in their two attacks. The immediate importance of Chemnitz is that it is a vital base for the defence of western Germany. Other R.A.F. targets on Wednesday night were a synthetic oil plant at Rositz, south of Leipzig, and Berlin, Duisburg, Mainz, Nuremberg, and Dessau. Dresden was still burning when Chemnitz received their pounding. The two centres are only 35 miles apart, and the damage to the first had made the other of even greater importance. The enemy's severely tried transport system. Chemnitz is believed to have been used by the enemy as a supply and reinforcement centre for the Wehrmacht. It also contains important industries, notably textiles, as well as being one of the main railway centres for Saxony.

NEWS

Plans for germ warfare defences

Britain's intelligence agencies, Scotland Yard and the Home Office are drawing up contingency plans in case President Saddam Hussein attempts to use biological or chemical agents in terrorist attacks in Britain.

The plans are expected to include a repeat of an exercise carried out in 1991 before the start of the campaign to expel Iraqi forces from Kuwait.

Task force formed to help pensioners

Six government ministers have been appointed to a "pensioners task force" to study how to improve life for Britain's 10 million senior citizens.

Low-fat doubts

Low-fat diets, an article of faith among doctors for a generation, may be useless or may even be damaging for two thirds of the population.

Panic preceded Peron

The highest levels of society were thrown into panic by the possibility of a visit to Britain by Eva Peron, secret government files have disclosed.

Sinn Fein warning

If Sinn Fein is suspended from the peace talks, "events on the ground" could prevent it ever returning, the party's chief negotiator said.

Tiny 'GP' in the body

Tiny microchips could be implanted in the body to monitor people's health and alert them to deficiencies in minerals and proteins.

Abbey place for Powell

Churchmen said they would allow Enoch Powell to lie at rest in Westminster Abbey before his funeral this week despite condemnation by politicians and fellow clerics.

Iraq compromise

The United Nations Secretary-General is pushing for a compromise with Iraq that would grant special arrangements for weapons inspections.

Lord's son saved

The son of the 16th Earl of Lindsay was recovering in hospital after surviving several minutes trapped underwater in a flooded culvert.

Irvine inquiry call

Tory MPs called for a parliamentary investigation into claims that the Lord Chancellor is to decorate his official residence with £145,000 of carpets, curtains and upholstery and £140,000 of furniture and art works.

Rules of engagement

Teachers will be given "rules of engagement" on how to restrain violent pupils and break up playground fights.

Arms policy attacked

Robin Cook's ethical common arms export policy was denounced as a hollow sham by leading aid agencies on the eve of its presentation to Britain's EU partners.

Blair blasts souvenirs

The Prime Minister is leading a campaign against what he calls tacky and inappropriate memorabilia of Diana, Princess of Wales, but has refused to ban use of her name.

Montserrat dole fear

The Chief Minister on Montserrat warned Whitehall that the islanders could flood British dole queues unless new homes were swiftly provided.

Woolwich auditions for film role

Until now it has been famed for its ferry and as the place that Arsenal Football Club left behind. But Woolwich in southeast London may be destined for a rather more glamorous future as a new home of British films.



The models Naomi Campbell, Kate Moss and Christy Turlington clad in Versace at a charity auction in Cape Town on Saturday

BUSINESS

Pay worries: The CBI's databank shows that pay settlements jumped at the end of last year, exciting fears of further interest rate rises, but the sharp rise may not have continued in January.

HEALTH AND WELFARE

Head in the clouds: Critics dismissed Graeme Mather's devoted efforts to make clouds rain, but recent experiments appear to have vindicated him.

ENTERTAINMENT

Butterfly netted: Richard Morrison meets Raymond Gubbay, the impresario behind some of the biggest opera productions Britain has seen, including this week's new Madam Butterfly.

SPORTS

Football: Barnsley held Manchester United at Old Trafford in the FA Cup.

STYLE

Modern and different: Elspeth Gibson, the insider's favourite designer, is going public with her first catwalk show in London.

ACTORS

Actors have it: The performances are better than the play in a production of Samuel Beckett's Happy Days by Leap of Faith.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy birthday: Sir John Mills at 90 is an event. It is given to few to be as admired, as appreciated and, as the years have left him unbowled, as loved.

WINTER OLYMPICS

Winter Olympics: Great Britain's hopes of a medal in the women's curling event were dashed when Sweden won the third-place playoff in Nagano.

FIGHTING CANCER

Fighting cancer: Chris Evans, Britain's top scientific entrepreneur, is backing a new company that brings together business and the discoverer of the cancer gene to work on therapies.

DESPERATE HOURS

Desperate hours: Frozen and terrified in a Himalayan blizzard, Paula Macklin and Justin Cressy not only survived, but found love.

TRUMPET RETURN

Triumphant return: Terry Caliber fled the music business for 15 years, but as his three sold-out nights at the Jazz Cafe proved, he was not forgotten.



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

LAW: Rock stars often find themselves playing the plaintiff in court. A government task force may change that.

ARTS

The single-minded vision of French artist Christian Boltanski

SAILLING

Sailing: Volvo UK is moving the focus of its sports sponsorship into sailing, a relief to those campaigning for more money for offshore single-handed racing.

RACING

Racing: Zaralaska is back in contention for the Champion Hurdle at Cheltenham after an impressive win at Newbury.

BOATS

As the countdown to the Second Great Gulf War begins, most Western countries have taken up their positions: yet Italy, in another classic and utterly predictable diplomatic farce, finds itself suddenly lumped with the Russians.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,716

A crossword puzzle grid with numbers indicating starting positions for words.

Answers to the crossword puzzle, including 'ACROSS' and 'DOWN' sections.

AA INFORMATION

Latest Road and Weather conditions. UK Weather - All regions. AA members - All regions.

Weather by Fax

World City Weather. 133 destinations world wide.

Motoring

Car reports by fax. AA members of 199 cars.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun sets: 7:13 am. Sun sets: 5:17 pm.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

Recycled paper made up 41.4% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1997.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

Table showing weather conditions and temperatures across various regions of Britain for the previous day.

AROUND

Table showing weather conditions and temperatures across various international locations.



Changes to chart below from noon: Low B fills as it moves north. Low C deepens as it moves towards Ireland. Low U fills as it moves east. High A drifts slowly north with little change in central pressure.



Weather front: Cold front. Occluded front.

Table showing today's weather conditions and temperatures for various locations across the UK and Europe.

Advertisement for travel insurance from American Express, offering annual travel insurance for £59.95 a year.

Advertisement for the solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 20,715, which will appear next Saturday.

Advertisement for OWPA (Older Women's Pensioners Association), a Western Pensioners Association.



55 من الاجل

### TEST TARGET

England need 225 to beat West Indies after Headley's efforts  
PAGE 27

### RUNNING MAN

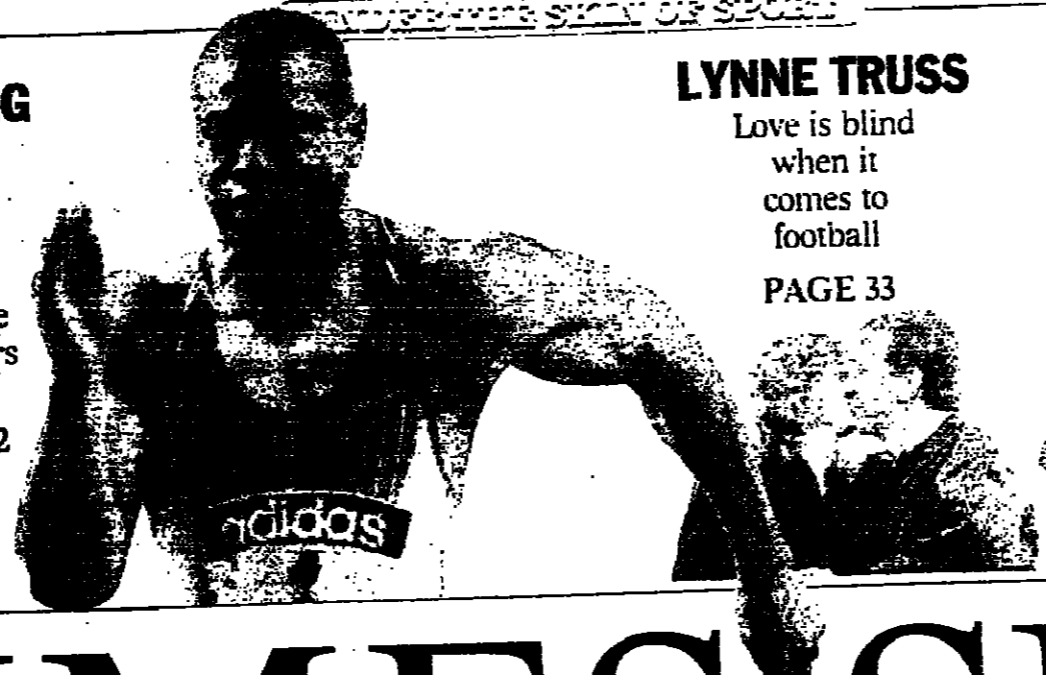
Why Maurice Greene leaves the fast talkers behind  
PAGE 32

### LYNNE TRUSS

Love is blind when it comes to football  
PAGE 33

### SWEPT ASIDE

Britain's hopes of a curling medal slip away  
PAGE 26



# TIMES SPORT

15 PAGES

MONDAY FEBRUARY 16 1998

## CUP EMBARRASSMENT FOR SCHMEICHEL AND UNITED



Schmeichel, the United goalkeeper, tries desperately to make up for his blunder, but fails to prevent Hendrie from putting Barnsley into the lead yesterday. Photograph: Rui Vieira. Report, page 28

## Gullit has eyes on Feyenoord

BY MATT DICKINSON

RUUD GULLIT had talked of a break from football, but it lasted precisely three days. The former Chelsea manager yesterday watched Sparta Rotterdam play SC Heerenveen, fuelling speculation of a speedy return to the Dutch game.

Feyenoord, the club with which he first won honours and where he is an honorary life member, made the first public bid for his services at the weekend. Leo Beenhakker is due to stand down as coach at the end of the season. "It is too early to make any firm decisions, but an offer from Feyenoord will be welcome," Gullit said.

More likely, however, is the chance to take over the Holland national team after the World Cup in France this year, although Gullit turned down an unofficial approach several weeks before he was sacked by Chelsea last Thursday.

He may be more amenable to the idea now. He is completing a Dutch coaching certificate course and would enjoy working alongside his former international colleague, Ronald Koeman, assistant to Guus Hiddink, the Holland manager.

Much could depend on Gullit's price of £2 million a year after tax. His hopes of returning to work could also be hampered if he pursues a threat to sue Chelsea for wrongful dismissal.

Graham Rix, the Chelsea coach, said yesterday that he believed Gullit had been struggling under the strain of managing the side. Rix claimed that he had seen Gullit banging his fist against his forehead at half-time during his last game in charge, the 2-0 FA Carling Premiership defeat against Arsenal.

"It was clear to me things weren't going as well as his cool exterior suggested," Rix said. "I was desperate for him to ask me for help, but he never asked. It is heart-breaking. It is probably for the best because we [Chelsea] had gone badly off the rails. I'm not sure Ruud could have halted the slide."

Gullit's successor, Gianluca Vialli, will hear within a fortnight whether he has lured Brian Laudrup to Stamford Bridge. The Rangers winger, who was dropped at the weekend, will decide in the next 14 days about a move to Chelsea, AS Monaco or Ajax.

Vialli also has spoken to a former Juventus team-mate, David Platt, of Arsenal, although Platt denied suggestions that they had discussed a coaching role.



Gullit struggled lately.

## Barnsley block the route to Newcastle

BY OLIVER HOLT, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

AFTER the heroics of Stevenage Borough in the last round of the FA Cup, Barnsley, the team rooted to the foot of the FA Carling Premiership, carried the banner for romantics everywhere yesterday when they held Manchester United to a 1-1 draw at Old Trafford. It ensured that they remained in the draw for the sixth round, where they face the prospect of a trip to face Newcastle United.

The performance of Danny Wilson's team, and the unexpected advent of a replay at Oakwell in ten days' time, overshadowed the Cup draw and the assumption that it had provided football with a battle of the giants in the pairing of Newcastle and United. It also forced the postponement of the testimonial game that United had been planning to raise money for the families of victims of the Munich air crash. Eric Cantona will have to wait a little longer for his triumphant return to Manchester.

The prospect of a clash between Newcastle and United, though, is still something to whet the appetite: another showdown between Alex Ferguson and Kenny Dalglish; a reprise of the fine league match at St James' Park earlier in the season, when a wonderful header from Andy Cole decided a passionate match.

Terry McDermott, the Newcastle assistant manager, said: "It's going to be tough whoever we meet. Manchester United are the best team in the country at the moment and Barnsley are really battling. There are easier ties. But we'll



FA CUP

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Full results guide ..... 30  
Harford's return ..... 31  
Blooming youth ..... 36

be playing at St James' Park and we have to be delighted with that."

If Barnsley, who profited from a dreadful error from Peter Schmeichel, the United goalkeeper, yesterday, emerge as the victors, the tie of the next round could be between Arsenal and Blackburn Rovers, if they manage to negotiate Crystal Palace and West Ham United respectively.

Arsenal stumbled to a goalless draw with Palace at Highbury yesterday, and Arsène Wenger, their manager, did not seek solace in the prospect of a home tie in the next round. "We did not beat Port Vale at Highbury and now we have not beaten

Palace," he said. "Why should we beat West Ham or Blackburn?"

The big winners in the draw were Coventry City, who were paired at home to Sheffield United in the only clear tie of the round. Leeds United, too, will be happy with their fate after the draw raised the possibility that they will face a Nationwide League first division team at Elland Road for the fourth time in succession. If Wolverhampton Wanderers beat Wimbledon in their replay at Molineux, they will be the visitors to Yorkshire.

All eyes, though, will be on the outcome of the Barnsley v Manchester United replay, if only because of its timing — three days before United's morning kick-off against Chelsea in the Premiership and a week before the first leg of their Champions' League quarter-final against AS Monaco. Barnsley must have more than an even chance.

"We will only have one replay in the Cup this season, son," Ferguson said after the game yesterday, "and that will be the last one. I'm looking forward to the replay at Oakwell. I have never taken a team there and I suppose it will be one of those cold, Yorkshire nights."

"The FA Cup is good for us. It gives you a different kind of excitement and it helps young players like Michael Clegg. He has come on a bundle, that boy, and it will be a great tie up there. It was a penalty kick at the end for them, but there is a general reluctance among referees now to give them and Barnsley suffered because of that."

Wilson, predictably, was delighted with his team's performance at the scene of their humbling earlier in the season and was relishing United's first visit to Oakwell for 34 years. "Of course, we are delighted about the result," he said. "We thought we had a clear penalty, but maybe the luck evened itself out because a mistake by Peter Schmeichel is a rarity in itself."

"Our players were very determined today. They wanted to show that the 7-0 result last year was not really a true reflection of our club. They put that right and this result will lift everybody and give us confidence for the fight in the league."

### FA CUP QUARTER-FINALS

Crystal Palace or Arsenal v Blackburn Rovers or West Ham United

Coventry City v Sheffield United

Leeds United v Wolverhampton Wanderers or Wimbledon

Newcastle United v Barnsley or Manchester United

Ties to be played on a weekend of March 7 and 8

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# Chess on ice makes compelling viewing as Britons miss out

THE lads and lasses of Scottish curling are away, back to their farms, their drawing board, computer and sales jobs, without a medal, but rest assured, curling is a triumph of the Winter Olympics. The gold medals, hard won by Switzerland's men and Canada's women, came at the end of a compelling and sustained tournament that gave the Games an indoor shelter from inclement weather. It fitted like a warm slipper.

Taking Part; failure hurt. Forget the quips about men with brooms; this was skilled, authentic competition. Dougie Dryburgh, the Great Britain men's skip, took out a team that talked about medals and finished seventh; Hay's women talked about doing their best and came within a single stone of eliminating Canada in the semi-final.

"You live and learn," was Hay's philosophical comment after losing yesterday's bronze medal play-off 10-6 to Sweden. "We were more or less outplayed from the first end. We made tactical errors and, after 5-5, we missed good stones. It's been a huge learning experience, one I'd like to take into the world championships, if a new generation does not come on to thump us off the ice."

The young might indeed be tempted after seeing the "chess on ice" contests on television, but Hay's reproachful tone is not necessary after her team's tenacity in coming from behind in matches. Sandra Schmirler, the formidable Canada skip, was heard to say since retaining her individual world title last year to give birth to her first child.

Sometimes exceeding 90 per cent accuracy, plotting and either blocking or attacking as a foursome, Canada mastered Denmark in the final, though the Danish success in reaching that level is commendable, given that they practise abroad. There is no curling rink in Denmark.

Switzerland's 9-3 victory over Canada in the men's final defied predictions and brought such emotion that the entire Swiss team burst into uncontrolled sobs. They became gold medal-winners, with Juan Antonio Samaranch, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) president, putting the medals around their necks and the IOC seal of approval on a game that turned out to be a mature gift to Olympicism.



Katie Loudon, left, Hay and Jackie Lockhart reflect on their narrow failure to win an Olympic medal.

FROM ROB HUGHES IN NAGANO



## Bobsleigh gold is shared for first time

FROM CHRIS MOORE IN NAGANO

FOR the first time in Olympic history, the gold medal for the two-man bobsleigh was shared after a tie yesterday. Guenther Huber, of Italy, and Pierre Leuders, of Canada, were never separated for more than 0.05sec on any of the four runs down the 1,700-metre spiral track.

Huber held a 0.03sec advantage going into the deciding run, having led Leuders by 0.04sec overnight, yet they finished with identical aggregate times of 3min 37.24sec after Leuders won the final run by 0.03sec in 54.24sec.

Thirty years ago, at the 1968 Olympic Games in Grenoble, Eugenio Monti, of Italy, and Horst Floth, of Germany, tied, but Monti was awarded the gold medal because he had the faster final run.

However, five years later, it was decided at the Sports Congress in Lake Placid that, in any future dead-heats, the gold medal would be shared.

Yesterday was the first occasion that any gold medal has been shared in two-man or four-man competitions at the Olympic Games, world championships or European championships. It was also the first time for 36 years that the two-man gold has not been won outright by a European country.

"It's unbelievable. I just can't believe it," Leuders said as he hugged his brakeman, David MacEachern. "Every race was a hundredth of a second job and before the final run I went up to Guenther and said: 'Can you imagine if we ended up tying for the gold medal?' I was joking because I never really thought it could happen, but I must have a sixth sense."

Huber admitted that he was unsure of the outcome as he and Antonio Tartaglia pulled up at the finish. "Everyone was jumping up and down shouting and screaming and I didn't know if we had won the gold or the silver," he said.

"Then I suddenly realised it was gold for both and remembered what Pierre had said in the start-house. We joked we should go together so a gold medal for us both is the perfect result."

Christopher Langan and Markus Zimmermann, of Germany, who set the fastest time of the competition on the third run with 54.11sec off the best start time of 4.95sec, won the bronze, 0.65sec behind the leaders.

Sean Olsson, captain of the Great Britain team, and his brakeman, Leary Paul, reserved their best run until last with the twelfth-fastest finish time of 54.73sec to finish fifteenth. Lee Johnston, the driver who qualified to compete in the Olympics only three weeks ago, was twentieth, with Eric Sekwalor.

## Winter Olympic Games: Daehlie closes in on record haul of medals

### Real drama in episode of neighbours

FROM ROB HUGHES

AFTER each victory at the Winter Olympic Games, the medal-winners are honoured by a "flower ceremony" giving them something to hold and the people on the mountain something to cheer before everyone congregates in Central Square for the real medal ritual after dark. By the end of these Games, Bjorn Daehlie will have had enough flowers to start a market garden back home in Norway.

He stands already at the top of the podium as the greatest male accumulator of medals in Winter Olympics history. Daehlie is the master of cross-country skiing, where the pulse is slower than alpine racers but where the demands are heavy on endurance, rhythm and, sometimes, the loneliness of being stalked for miles.

On skis, Daehlie knows the breaking point of every competitor and of his own resources. To watch him, you forsake the high peak of Mount Happono, which is no sacrifice since daily the vagaries of the Nagano weather brings postponements. Thus far, he has encountered mist, too much snow, too little wind, rain and lightning and there is real fear that the alpine programme will not be completed. Meanwhile, foul though the slush and melting ice has been in Snow Harp, the marathon skiers have trudged on.

Last Monday, Daehlie finished thirtieth in the 30 kilometre race won by Mike Myllylae, of Finland. Some questioned if the reign was over, if the outstanding cross-country skier of his generation was out of puff. Wax was the answer. Daehlie had been waxing his skis with the wrong stuff for the prevailing conditions, which is like the Williams Formula One cars choosing the wrong tyres in the wet at Monaco.

By Thursday, well waxed, he won the Classic ten kilometre, after receiving, he said, a phone call from Mrs Daehlie reminding him: "You forgot that to win, you must go a bit faster than the others."

The humour is dry, the shrug of triumph modest. Daehlie accepts the law of competition that the further you go on, the more someone is waiting to take you. It happened on Saturday when, though he led the 15 kilometre race from the start, he felt the breath on his neck from just over half-distance of a pursuer. Kilometre by kilometre, he was stalked by a younger man, by a neighbour from the village of Nannestad, near Oslo.

"I felt strong," Thomas Alsgaard said. "I felt today was my day." Stride for stride, Alsgaard ignored invitations to go ahead, take the head wind. Daehlie felt the presence and the pressure. Little distance separated the neighbours now.

Eventually, having raced on the shoulder and lived in the shadow of Daehlie for so long, Alsgaard went for home 200 metres from the line — the distance, he mused, between their houses — and won the sprint by a second in a race time of 1hr 7min 1.7sec.

Alsgaard is 26, Daehlie 30, but rather than assume that his time has come, the younger man said: "Bjorn is a great skier. I think he will continue to dominate cross country as long as he skis."

Daehlie told white lies. No, he wasn't disappointed at all. No, he didn't get a score of gold or silver medals. "When you don't win and you see why, it's quite easy to accept," he said. And Alsgaard then made an easy promise. He would try to help Daehlie to his seventh gold in the team relay on Thursday, after which it will be up to Daehlie himself to carry off the 50 kilometre finale on Saturday.

By winning six golds, Daehlie has equalled Lyubov Yegorova — but she was disgraced after testing positive for drugs last year. His haul of six gold and four silver betters the four gold, five silver, one bronze of Raisa Smetanina. The only other Winter Olympian to wear as many medals



Alsgaard crosses the line ahead of Daehlie to win the 15 kilometre cross-country race. Photograph: Joe Cavaretta

is Lydia Skoblikova, a speedskater from the Soviet Union in the 1960s.

As a child, Daehlie eschewed skiing, preferring ski jumping until he sacked his coach — his own father — and tried something new. "Of course, it's fantastic," he answers to enquiries, "but I think I will appreciate it more in a few years, when I'm a grand-father watching old videos."

Watching him, live, was Akiko Maruyama, a fan, who said: "I came to see Daehlie — it's raining, it's icy cold and I would be here in any weather."

The Japanese can admire, but the fact that it is a close neighbour who dogs Daehlie is a statement in itself that Winter Games are for a select sector of the world. A third of mankind sees no snow. In addition to that, Daehlie is taking advantage of a unique period of three Olympics in six years that have coincided with his prime.

After last week's victory, he waited 20 minutes at the finish for Philip Boit, the first Kenyan Winter Olympian, to stagger into his arms. "Well done," Daehlie said. "You are a champion."

We shared that momentary gesture, but later appreciated that Nike, the sportswear manufacturer, had manipulated Boit's move from summer to winter, from Kenya runner to Nagano skier.

Putting a runner on to skis was a marketing ploy for which Nike paid Boit and a colleague to live in Finland, on top of \$250,000 training costs.

"Nike always felt sports shouldn't have boundaries," is the official line. "People forget Nike is a business and our business is getting attention," is the reality. Nike could not have arranged a better photocall than Boit collapsing into the hands of the man who is one long stride away from becoming the most decorated Winter Olympian in history.

## Golden jump delights Japan

LEAPING towards a sea of Japanese flags, Kazuyoshi Funaki realised the hopes of a nation yesterday when he clinched the large-hill ski-jumping gold medal with a superb second jump of 132.5 metres.

Masahiko Harada, his team-mate, who has twice let Olympic gold slip, redeemed himself with a hill record second jump of 136 metres, weak on style points but good enough to move up to a bronze medal behind Jari Suominen, of Finland, the winner of the competition on the smaller hill.

Old routine. In ice skating, Pascha Grishank and Yevgeny Plavov, the favourites in ice dancing, led their usual challengers, Anzhelika Krylova and Oleg Ovsyannikov, their counterparts, after the overnight and the previous day's competition. The pair, from Russia, took the lead with a technically superb free skate but Saturday day featured a grand and tight triple.

Czechs cash in. In ice hockey, Russia and the Czech Republic each scored their second victory in the round that determines pairings for the quarter-finals. Russia beat Finland 4-3 and the Czechs drubbed Kazakhstan 8-2. Early today, the Russians faced the Czechs and winless Finland and Kazakhstan were to meet. Undefeated Canada played the United States (1-1) and Sweden (1-1) faced Belarus (0-2).

Dutch double. In speed skating, Long considered masters of long distance races, Holland gained a sprint victory yesterday when Ido Postma won the 1,000 metres in an Olympic record time of 1:04.66sec, with Jan Bos, his team-mate, taking the silver medal, 0.07sec behind. Hirayasa Shimizu, of Japan, the 500 metres gold medal-winner, won the bronze.

Skiing finale. The beleaguered organisers of the sliding event pinned their hopes of clearing the backlog of races on a three-race programme today, taking in the super-giant slalom for men and two downhill runs for women — a gold medal race and one half of the combined event. The slalom portion will be held tomorrow.

### RESULTS AND DETAILS FROM NAGANO

**BIATHLON**  
WOMEN: 7.5km (mixed targets in brackets): 1. G. Koubleva (Rus) 23min 08.0sec (1); 2. U. Uruha (Jpn) 23:08.7 (1); 3. K. Aoi (Can) 23:22.4 (1); 4. S. Mikolova (Slovakia) 23:23.1 (1); 5. Yu. Shumina (Cze) 23:40.0 (0); 6. A. Serna (Esp) 23:53.1 (0); 7. M. Schwachhammer (Slovenia) 23:54.1 (1); 8. M. Larsson (Fin) 23:55.7 (0); 9. A. Murinov (Slovakia) 23:57.7 (0); 10. N. Serner (C) 23:59.6 (1); 11. E. Petrova (Ukr) 24:04.5 (1); 12. A. Gracia (Slovakia) 24:05.2 (1).

**BOBSLEIGHING**  
TWO-MAN (positions after final run): 1. Italy (G. Huber, A. Tartaglia) 54.51sec; 54.25; 54.17; 54.27; 3min 37.24sec; Canada (D. Lapan, D. MacEachern) 54.68; 54.28; 54.16; 54.24; 3:37.24; 3. Germany (C. Lapan, M. Zimmermann) 54.82; 54.69; 54.11; 54.34; 3:37.88; 4. Switzerland (C. Reich, C. Geron) 54.73; 54.58; 54.32; 54.54; 3:38.15; 5. Latvia (S. Pruse, J. Berez) 54.91; 54.52; 54.28; 54.52; 3:38.24; 6. Switzerland (R. Coatsworth, G. Acland) 54.71; 54.77; 54.44; 54.33; 3:38.27; 7. United States (J. Hertenbach, R. Olsson) 54.81; 54.70; 54.46; 54.49; 3:38.53; 8. Czech Republic (P. Fucik, J. Koban) 54.92.

**ICE HOCKEY**  
MEN: Group C: Russia 4, Finland 3, Czech Republic 2, Kazakhstan 2, Group D: Canada 3, Sweden 2, United States 3, Belarus 2.  
WOMEN: Preliminary round: United States 7, Canada 4, China 1, Finland 6, Sweden 5, Japan 1.

**CURLING**  
MEN: Semi-finals: Canada 7, United States 1, Switzerland 8, Norway 7. Third-place play-off: Norway 9, United States 4, Finland 3, Switzerland 8.  
WOMEN: Semi-finals: Canada 6, Great Britain 5, Denmark 7, Sweden 5. Third-place play-off: Norway 10, Great Britain 6, Finland 6, Canada 7, Denmark 5.

**ICE SKATING**  
MEN: 500m: 1. K. Furuta (Japan) 1:19.0; 2. S. Saito (Can) 1:19.4; 3. D. A. T. G. (USA) 1:19.5; 4. S. Saito (Can) 1:19.6; 5. M. Veloso (USA) 1:19.7; 6. S. Saito (Can) 1:19.8; 7. S. Saito (Can) 1:19.9; 8. S. Saito (Can) 1:20.0; 9. S. Saito (Can) 1:20.1; 10. S. Saito (Can) 1:20.2; 11. S. Saito (Can) 1:20.3; 12. S. Saito (Can) 1:20.4; 13. S. Saito (Can) 1:20.5; 14. S. Saito (Can) 1:20.6; 15. S. Saito (Can) 1:20.7; 16. S. Saito (Can) 1:20.8; 17. S. Saito (Can) 1:20.9; 18. S. Saito (Can) 1:21.0; 19. S. Saito (Can) 1:21.1; 20. S. Saito (Can) 1:21.2; 21. S. Saito (Can) 1:21.3; 22. S. Saito (Can) 1:21.4; 23. S. Saito (Can) 1:21.5; 24. S. Saito (Can) 1:21.6; 25. S. Saito (Can) 1:21.7; 26. S. Saito (Can) 1:21.8; 27. S. Saito (Can) 1:21.9; 28. S. Saito (Can) 1:22.0; 29. S. Saito (Can) 1:22.1; 30. S. Saito (Can) 1:22.2; 31. S. Saito (Can) 1:22.3; 32. S. Saito (Can) 1:22.4; 33. S. Saito (Can) 1:22.5; 34. S. Saito (Can) 1:22.6; 35. S. Saito (Can) 1:22.7; 36. S. Saito (Can) 1:22.8; 37. S. 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RUGBY LEAGUE

Goulding prowls as he pleases

Featherstone Rovers ..24 St Helens .....

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

TOO big, too powerful: the very arguments of the Super League clubs in their recent political posturing...

With a difference of 2st per man between the packs, Featherstone were featherweights. At first, they were blown away before they and St Helens scored four tries each in a more rewarding second half...

For an hour, the reason the elite clubs wish to go their own way was horribly plain. Featherstone, with six teenagers, were batted around like a mouse by a cat, Bobbie Goulding, the Great Britain scrum half...

Goulding's trademark is the hanging diagonal kick for his wings. The trick is to collect it on the full. Having allowed one to bounce away from him, Chris Smith, one of four newcomers to the side, made no mistake at the second bidding...

Shaun McRae, the St Helens coach, was pleased. "The game was won early and I'm quite happy with that," he said. "We purposely hadn't played too many pre-season games...

Going down the slope at Post Office Road, Featherstone were in danger of being buried as Hammond demonstrated first his strength and then his support play with two tries...

At 50-0 down, Featherstone threw on two Australians, Fallins and Baker, who made an immediate impact. Fallins dummed his way beneath the posts and Pratt, a 17-year-old stand-off half...

SCORERS: Featherstone: Tony Fallon, Chris Pratt, Steve Hurrend, Alan Adams, Steve Hurrend, Alan Adams, Steve Hurrend, Alan Adams...

Ellenborough give amateurs further boost

HUNSLET became the second professional victor of Ellenborough, the amateurs in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup yesterday. Ellenborough, by virtue of a 14-12 victory, join Egmont, their fellow Cumbrians...

Wigan Warriors led a rout by Super League teams, winning 76-0 at Keighley. London Broncos, though, were behind at half-time at Batley before emerging 44-20 victors.

CRICKET: WEST INDIES EKE OUT PRECIOUS ADVANTAGE IN THIRD TEST DESPITE SEAM BOWLERS' EFFORTS

Headley and Fraser keep England alive

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN PORT OF SPAIN, TRINIDAD

ENGLAND, battling furiously to stay competitive in their Caribbean Test series, were yesterday required to emulate the heroics of their opponents a week ago. To win the third Test at Queen's Park Oval...

That they retained a distant glimpse of victory after squandering the chance of a first-innings lead was due to penetrative seam bowling from Angus Fraser and an apparently critical stage. This time, Ambrose, rested with figures of three for ten, spent more than three hours grazing bemusedly in the outfield...

Low bounce is the enemy here, just as it was four years ago, when England were bowled out for 46 by Curtly Ambrose in his pomp. Their target that day was 194 and the disconcerting sense of déjà vu that has tormented their stay in Trinidad was highlighted by the prospect of a chillingly similar demand.

This curious fortnight, with its consecutive Tests, has produced constant, claustrophobic tension. Day eight of the scheduled ten was to be no less fraught than its predecessors and even as England chipped away at the home batting, taking three wickets in each of the first two sessions, there was a sense that they were merely hastening a daunting destiny.

To some degree, they had created their own discomfort through cricket that too often wavered in concentration and discipline. This pitch, though not straightforward, is far less uneven than the neighbouring strip used last week, yet the weights on the team a bit lower. England, with the advantage of the toss, will feel that they invited a second defeat by falling behind on first innings.

That their three Surrey batsmen — Stewart, Thorpe and Butcher — should all get out on Saturday when well set was disappointing. That all three should be dismissed by the part-time spin of Hooper and Adams was wasteful. Thorpe, who looked on the verge of something substantial, will be particularly disgruntled to have perished cutting at Hooper for the second time in three innings.

For the second successive Saturday, Lara obscurely ignored his best bowlers at an apparently critical stage. This time, Ambrose, rested with figures of three for ten, spent more than three hours grazing bemusedly in the outfield as Hooper bowled 15 overs of unchanged off spin. He bowled them well, too, but Ambrose, finally recalled to shoo away the tail and com-

The pitch is growing more malevolent by the session

plete his regulation five-wicket analysis on this ground, would surely have done the job quicker and cheaper. With a deficit of 14, England's crying need was to impose immediate control with the ball. Instead, Caddick's first two overs contained a sequence of gentle half-volleys and cost 16 runs. His fourth wicket with a shocking long hop.

Caddick earned further reproach for a casual piece of batting that brought his own needless run-out and helped to leave Russell stranded. David Lloyd departs, as would any devoted coach, Caddick, he said carefully, "is out of sorts and a touch out of form, which weighs on the team a bit". Diplomatically damned, one might say.

Significantly, Headley and Fraser were given the bulk of for his present aggregate of 161 runs. Hooper has had an unhappy game with the bat after playing the best innings of his life to decide the previous Test. England have bowled well at him, restricting his options with a preconceived plan, and, after almost an hour of discomfort for five, he gave Headley his first wicket of the game in his 29th over.

This tour has been a chastening education for Headley, but he has responded well over the past two days and his gains now were well deserved. Hooper was leg-before, undone by the increasing peril of a ball keeping low, and Atherton kept Headley going for 11 overs, all but one of the morning allocation from his end.

The cricket remained compelling after lunch. Tufnell now being used to stifle the two left-handers. Chanderpaul, however, played some delightful drives and had advanced threateningly to 39 when he fell to an outstanding catch by Russell. He took the edge low and left-handed, characterising an impeccable wicketkeeping exhibition from a man unrecognisably scruffy only last week.

This began a typical burst from Headley, who is nothing if not a wicket-taker. The last ball of the same over, an inswinging yorker, completed a "pair" for David Williams. The first ball of the next spell, Ambrose's stumps. Headley had taken three for one in seven balls and England were nearly through. Nearly was as close as they were to come for an hour either side of tea, however, as Adams and McLean added 30 runs to the West Indies' advantage, driving the demands on England's batting into ever more formidable territory.

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Headley mounts a successful appeal for the wicket of Chanderpaul yesterday

SCOREBOARD FROM PORT OF SPAIN

Table with columns for West Indies First Innings, Second Innings, and England First Innings. Lists players, runs, and wickets.

Symcox finds key to No 10

JOHANNESBURG (second day of five: Pakistan won toss): Pakistan, with six first-innings wickets in hand, are 258 runs behind South Africa

PAT SYMCOX is a cricketer of advanced years who professes that his game is enhanced by the fear of unemployment. His maiden Test century, the first by a No 10 batsman since 1902, was made in partnership with Mark Boucher, the new — and promising — South Africa wicketkeeper. Together they created a world Test record of 195 for the ninth wicket against a Pakistan attack that looked to bowl inordinately short at them.

Table with columns for South Africa First Innings, Pakistan First Innings, and England First Innings. Lists players, runs, and wickets.

Holloioake pulls his weight

FROM SIMON WILDE IN MORATUWA

Three times Holloioake hit the ball out of the sizeable Tyrone Fernando stadium, though, on each occasion, it was recovered, once from an open sewer — leading to a lengthy cleaning process. On being told of this later, Holloioake, who had kept the ball as a memento, said: "I'd better take it out of my bag."

Table with columns for Sri Lanka A First Innings, England A First Innings, and Sri Lanka B First Innings. Lists players, runs, and wickets.

Scoreboard from Moratuwa

Table with columns for Sri Lanka A First Innings, England A First Innings, and Sri Lanka B First Innings. Lists players, runs, and wickets.

ICE HOCKEY

Ayr kept waiting as Storm roar on

By NORMAN DE MESQUITA

AYR: Scottish Eagles, who had a night off on Saturday, were probably hoping that Manchester Storm would lose to Basingstoke Bison and hand them the Superleague title by default. In the event, the Storm won 5-2 and retained their own faint hopes of the championship. It was their sixth successive league win and, but for a disappointing loss of form in December, they would surely be the champions rather than Ayr.

In contrast, Basingstoke have avoided finishing bottom for the second successive year only because Newcastle Cobras have had such a woeful season. Since injury deprived them of the services of Sean Mignacca, their first-choice goaltender, Richard Gallace has played in goal in 28 consecutive games of which the Bison have won only six.

While it is often said that an outstanding goaltender is 60 per cent of a successful ice hockey team, it seems unfair to suggest that it is all Gallace's fault, but that is the message delivered by Peter Woods, the Basingstoke coach, who has acquired the services of Andre Racine, who made 68 appearances for Montreal Canadiens of the National Hockey League between 1989 and 1994 and who made his debut for the Bison on Saturday.

It was not a happy introduction to the Superleague, but to be fair, he arrived from Montreal only on Saturday morning and it was probably travel fatigue, combined with the poor ice, which troubled players on both teams, that made it difficult for him to keep his feet. He did seem at fault, however, with two of Manchester's first three goals.

In two other fixtures on Saturday, Newcastle Cobras managed only 17 shots on goal as Derek Herjofsky gained his third shut-out of the season and Cardiff Devils won 6-0 while Bracknell Bees continued their excellent run of form, beating Nottingham Panthers 5-3 for their seventh successive win.

Drago talks of retiring after loss

TONY DRAGO threatened to return home to Malta after losing 5-4 to Mark Bennett, a regular nemesis, in the second round of the Royal Scottish Open at Aberdeen yesterday (Phil Yates writes).

"If I don't pick myself up, I'm going to quit," he said. "I feel that badly about things at the moment. You should take me seriously. I'm not one to say something like that lightly just because of a single defeat."

Drago is becoming increasingly irritated by the attention that he has received as a member of the electorate for an extraordinary general meeting of the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association (WPBSA) on March 4 to decide whether Rex Williams remains as chairman.

"I'm getting more telephone calls about who I'm going to vote for than about my form," Drago said. "All these political problems are getting on my nerves. I'm not enjoying snooker any more and everything is getting me down."

On the way to building a 3-1 lead at the mid-session interval, Drago, the world No 11 and runner-up in the event last year, constructed a 140 total clearance. It was in vain, however. Bennett now plays Dave Harold or Dominic Dale.

Darren Morgan, the No 15 seed, became the third member of the top 16 to stumble at his opening hurdle when he was beaten 5-2 by Joe Perry. Peter Ebdon needed only 72 minutes to join Perry in the third round with an untroubled 5-0 defeat of Steve Judd.

CRICKETLINE WEST INDIES V ENGLAND VERY LATEST NEWS & SCORES 0930-161-567

سكوا من الأصل

FA Cup: Ferguson anxious about growing fixture congestion after draw at Old Trafford

Barnsley fail to read the script for action replay

AT VILLA Park on Saturday, Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, and Danny Wilson, his Barnsley counterpart, had been separated by one seat in the stand, leaning over to each other occasionally, swapping observations. At Old Trafford last night, to the astonishment of all but the most committed, their respective teams were locked so close together that a replay will be needed to decide which of them progressed to an FA Cup sixth-round tie at Newcastle United.



MANCHESTER UNITED 1 BARNSELY 1 By Oliver Holt Football Correspondent

football bloopers. Pallister played a gentle back-pass to Schmeichel, but the goalkeeper kicked at it wildly and succeeded not only in slicing the ball across the area but in throwing himself off balance and on to his back, too. Hendrie began the pursuit as Schmeichel leapt to his feet and, after what seemed an age, the Barnsley forward got to it first and slid it into an empty net.

Another mistake by Berg almost let Ward in, then an underhit back-pass by Bosanac at the other end seemed to have freed Giggs before Watson dashed out to clear it. Three minutes before the interval, though, United equalised when Giggs took a long ball on his chest and tricked the Barnsley defence with a back-heel that allowed Sheringham to advance on Watson and slide the ball past him. Barnsley spurned a chance to regain the lead a minute later as the action continued unabated, but Schmeichel made some amends for his earlier howler when he rushed from his line to block a shot from Ward with his feet.

The frenzied pace hardly let up at the start of the second half. Beckham, on for the injured Johnsen, contributed a first touch that was a deep, curling cross to the back post, where Giggs lurked unmarked. The Welshman could only direct his header at Watson. Before the half was five minutes old, United had forged another chance, this time from the unlikely source of Pallister. He burst up the field, allowed to run on by a retreating Barnsley defence, and played the ball to Giggs. Giggs opened up the defence with a sublime flick, but Pallister crossed behind the onrushing Sheringham and the moment was lost.

After a short hiatus, United nearly went ahead when Beckham lobbed a pass into the box for Clegg and the young full back headed just wide. Barnsley missed an even better chance 12 minutes from time when Bullock laid a pass to Hendrie, who was in space in the box. Hendrie, exhausted now, could only blaze his shot high over the bar. A frantic last ten minutes saw Barnsley denied that penalty and Moses make a last-ditch challenge to deny Giggs. In the last minute, Watson saved a low shot from Cruyff to ensure the replay and the 8,000 Barnsley supporters behind the goal erupted in the joy of honour regained.

Manchester United (4-4-2): P. Schmeichel - M. Clegg, H. Berg, G. Pallister, D. Watt - P. Neville, R. Johnson (sub: D. Spector, 60min), S. McCluskey (sub: G. Neville, 70), R. Gigg - E. Sheringham, E. Hendrie (sub: C. Cruyff, 70). Barnsley (5-5-2): D. Watson - A. Moses, A. de Zeeuw, C. Morgan - N. Eadon, J. Bosanac, N. Pickard, M. Bullock, A. Kizian - J. Hendrie (sub: A. Lockard, 81), A. Ward. Referee: M. Riley.



Impey, the West Ham United midfielder, prompts a forward move by his side after leaving Cruft, the Blackburn Rovers defender, in his wake at Upton Park

Berkovic acts out his role on wrong stage



WEST HAM UNITED 2 BLACKBURN ROVERS 2 By Matt Dickinson

NEXT week's replay of this FA Cup fifth-round tie will not be for the faint-hearted - so that rules out Eyal Berkovic, West Ham United's Israel midfielder player was at his histrionic, playing-acting worst on Saturday, achieving the rare feat of being hit in the face and still coming out the villain of the piece.

Kevin Gallacher was the Blackburn Rovers man to blow a gasket, receiving his marching orders after just 34 minutes for catching Berkovic with the back of his hand. If not the vicious elbow many had initially suspected, it was still an act of folly to raise his arm and any appeal would appear doomed to failure.

Gallacher with just two minutes gone, defensive indiscipline allowed Paul Kinnear to equalise after 27 minutes, and West Ham proceeded to go ahead shortly before half-time when a John Hartson shot was touched in by Berkovic on the line. The interval allowed what Hodgson later described as "ten minutes of sanity" in the middle of a frenetic and gripping Cup-tie and, whatever he said over the tea-break, it worked superbly as his side fought back.

Led by a masterful display as a lone striker by Chris Sutton, Blackburn soaked up the pressure and then struck the equaliser after 62 minutes, when the England rebel held off the hapless Ian Pearce at the far post and forced a header in off Forrest and the upright. Whether Sutton knew that Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, was in the stand is unknown, but he made his point as eloquently on the pitch as he has in recent interviews. Sherwood, also ignored by Hoddle, to Blackburn's irritation, was similarly impressive and could surely do better than David Bony managed against Chile.

Graham glowing with thoughts of Wembley



LEEDS UNITED 3 BIRMINGHAM CITY 2 By Russell Kempson

PICTURE it a warm, cloudless afternoon in May, Wembley full with its usual mix of expectant fans and corporate free-loaders. The teams line up nervously in the players' tunnel. It is ten minutes to kick-off, the band is leaving and battle will shortly commence in the final of the FA Cup, the world's most revered knockout competition. A global audience of millions gets ready.

George Graham, the Leeds United manager, is resplendent in club jacket, sharp tie and matching carnation. He smooths his hair, reassuringly pats his younger players on the back and clenches his fist under the nose of David Wetherall, his captain. He glances across at his rival, perhaps Arsene Wenger, of Arsenal, and smiles before leading his side out of the shade and on to the pitch. He is back in the big time; it is where he belongs. Graham already has the scent of success, the vibe that often precedes great deeds. Leeds have reached the quarter-finals and his elegant assurance, the peacock strut, has returned. It never really went away, even amid the acrimony of his messy departure from Highbury almost three years ago. Yet only now, having paid his dues and completed his spiritual rehabilitation, has the twinkle reappeared in those most searching of eyes.

"I like Wembley, it suits me," he said. "I like walking out there, it's enjoyable. It's good for the players, the club, everyone." He's getting lucky, too. Lucky George. Lucky old Arsenal, lucky old Leeds. Cup runs rarely prosper without occasional good fortune and Leeds needed more than an average helping at Elland Road, having squandered a 2-0 lead before Hasselbaink rose to the rescue in the 87th minute. Even then, it may not have been strictly legal. Trevor Francis, the Birmingham City manager, felt that not only had Bowyer tumbled too theatrically when challenged by Grainger, which led to the decisive free kick or foul, it nullified the need for a replay, which Birmingham probably deserved. They might hail from the mid-to-upper reaches of the Nationwide League first division, a play-off game or two from the FA Carling Premiership, but they rattled the Leeds cage with increasing vigour, once the half-time deficit had been erased.

Shearer teaches painful lesson Relieved Kinnear goes shopping

THE qualities of Alan Shearer are recognised universally - two good feet, strong in the air, alert of mind and aware of space. Clint Hill, the Tranmere Rovers defender challenged to repel his threat on Saturday, has discovered something else. "I did not realise he is unbelievably strong," Hill said. "I am black and blue all over my legs and I've got a bruise near my eye. He can look after himself." The boy tried, but suffered like better players before him. Shearer had promised his shirt to the testimonial fund of John Morrissey; by handover time, it must have been as ragged as a tramp's overcoat, such was the close attention he received. Hill revealed afterwards that his favourite player is Tommy Smith. He owns a collection of video tapes featuring the former Liverpool defender and archetypal hard



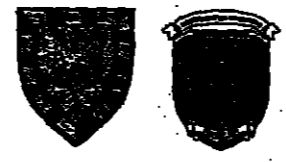
NEWCASTLE UNITED 1 TRANMERE ROVERS 0 By Richard Hobson

man. "I model myself on him, although I have been told to calm it down a bit," Hill said. How Smith would have begrudged the sight of a grinning Shearer leaving St James' Park without as much as a hobble. Even worse was the fact that Shearer dictated the outcome of this FA Cup fifth-round tie. His goal in the 22nd minute was his fourth in the competition this season, all of them headers, and it ought

to find its way on to Hill's video rack. Lesson: take your eyes off this man and he will punish you. It was the only occasion when the gap between the sides, the difference in sheer class, became apparent. Pistone not only controlled Speed's pass at an awkward height in the right corner, but delivered a fine, hanging cross on the half-volley. Shearer gauged its flight early enough to take a couple of short steps back, thus ensuring he arrived to meet it in the optimum position. Hill was still pondering the trajectory when Shearer rose, unmarked behind him, to head inside the near post. John Aldridge, the Tranmere manager, felt that his side deserved to take the game to a replay. Given produced two good saves to deny Irons and McGreal, while the long throws of Challinor, delivered

like missiles over 40 yards, consistently troubled the Newcastle defence. "Performances are irrelevant in Cup games, as long as you get a result," Kenny Dalglisli, the Newcastle manager, said. This is just as well, because the display was languid. It is clear why Dalglisli remains keen to attract Markus Babbel, the German central defender, from Bayern Munich. The approach play was usually laboured and over-precise, yet when Newcastle did break quickly, Lee and Shearer tested Simonson to the full. As Hill may discover, lessons are not always absorbed easily.

THIS was a mediocre game, refereed impressively by Urali Rennie, the only black referee in the FA Carling Premiership, and probably the best. For the second round in succession, Wolverhampton Wanderers came to London and drew an FA Cup tie. In the fourth round, it was with Charlton Athletic; this time, with a much-weakened Wimbledon. A disappointed Mark McGhee felt that Wolves had a better chance of defeating Wimbledon at Selhurst Park, despite home advantage in the replay, when Joe Kinnear hopes to have a full team on parade. The Wimbledon manager was without Michael Hughes, the Northern Ireland winger, who had collected three cautions at West Ham United and was thus suspended. Hughes, since his arrival at Wimbledon, has been the heart and



WIMBLEDON 1 WOLVERHAMPTON 1 By Brian Glanville

soul of the side. Also missing were Kenny Cunningham, the right back, who dovetails well with Hughes in attack; Marcus Gayle, the big striker, with Jamaica in the Concacaf Gold Cup; and Robbie Earle, who was injured. Wolves, too, had their absences and Dougie Freedman, suffering from stomach trouble, should not, as McGhee admitted, really have been used at all. In addition, the resilient Keith Curle and Steve Sedgley played after having painkilling injections. "I'm relieved, I supposed," Kinnear said, "to be still in it. I thought we might just hang on. For what we could get out on the pitch, I was glad to get just that. Basically, we were a little naive up front. Two young lads." The lads were Carl Cort and Jason Euell - another player who is not quite fit, after a shoulder operation.

Yesterday, Kinnear was in Paris, looking at a midfield player and a striker playing for Metz, who have done surprisingly well this season. "If I like what I see of them, I'll buy them," he said. "I've got £25 million to spend and that'll buy the pair of them." Wimbledon might have won but for Mike Stowell, the Wolverhampton goalkeeper, who, in the second half, reached a volleyed right-foot thunderbolt from Vinnie Jones and desperately blocked a ferocious shot by Castledine. Neil Sullivan, the Wimbledon goalkeeper, made a notable first-half save from a Don Goodman header and, four minutes later, blocked a long, diagonal drive from Atkins. Wimbledon scored on the quarter-hour. Euell served Fear on the left and, when the cross came over, flicked on by Castledine and by Curle's unwitting head, Euell was there to nod in. "It looked like slow motion to me," McGhee said. "It was a poor start for us. Put us on the back foot."

Midway through the second half, however, Wolves equalised. Robinson crossed hard and low from the right, Blackmore and Paatelainen went for it together and the ball fell into the net off the Finnish striker. Stowell's saves apart, Wimbledon's chances close to doubling their lead when a Cort header was cleared off the line by Curle. McGhee ejected both Curle and his fellow stopper, the elegant Dean Richards, although he thinks the latter, out of action for 11 months until Boxing Day, "has still to get back to the brilliance he showed before". When he does, England, judged on their blundering form against Chile, might be glad of him. Wimbledon (4-4-2): N. Sullivan - J. Hart, G. Smith, D. Blackwell, G. Perry, B. Thatcher - P. Fear, N. Kelly, S. Castledine, V. Jones - J. Cort (sub: A. Clarke, 77min). Wolverhampton Wanderers (4-4-2): M. Stowell - M. Adams, D. Robinson, K. Curle, L. Taylor - S. O'Brien, C. Robinson, S. Sangley (sub: D. Freedman, 60min), P. Simpson - M. Paatelainen (sub: A. Williams, 90), D. Goodman. Referee: U. Rennie.

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WIMBLEDON 1 WOLVERHAMPTON 1... soul of the side. Also missing were Kenny Cunningham, the right back, who dovetails well with Hughes in attack; Marcus Gayle, the big striker, with Jamaica in the Concacaf Gold Cup; and Robbie Earle, who was injured.



Jones shows typical determination to deny Paatelainen

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FEBRUARY 16 1998

FA Cup: Goalkeepers take lead roles as fifth-round derby ends in controversy and stalemate



Dixon, the Arsenal defender, comes under heavy pressure from Fullarton yesterday at Highbury, where Crystal Palace forced a replay. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

Coventry bolster their claim for area supremacy

IT WAS almost an hour and a half after the game when Brian Little strode out of the Aston Villa changing room, picked his way through the jam of sleek cars in the players' car park and emerged, still smiling, into the Villa Park interview room. "My apologies for being late, ladies and gentlemen," Little said. "I had hoped you might have gone by now."

Penalty decisions put referee on spot

A TALE of two goalkeepers, you might say. Kevin Miller, who looked on Monday at Sellhurst Park where Wimbledon put three goals past him in quick succession, as though his nerves were shot to pieces, rose triumphantly above his traumas yesterday to keep Crystal Palace in the game. By contrast, Alex Manninger, Arsenal's young Austrian reserve, looked insecure, was awfully lucky not to concede a late first-half penalty and very nearly gave a goal away a dozen minutes from the end.



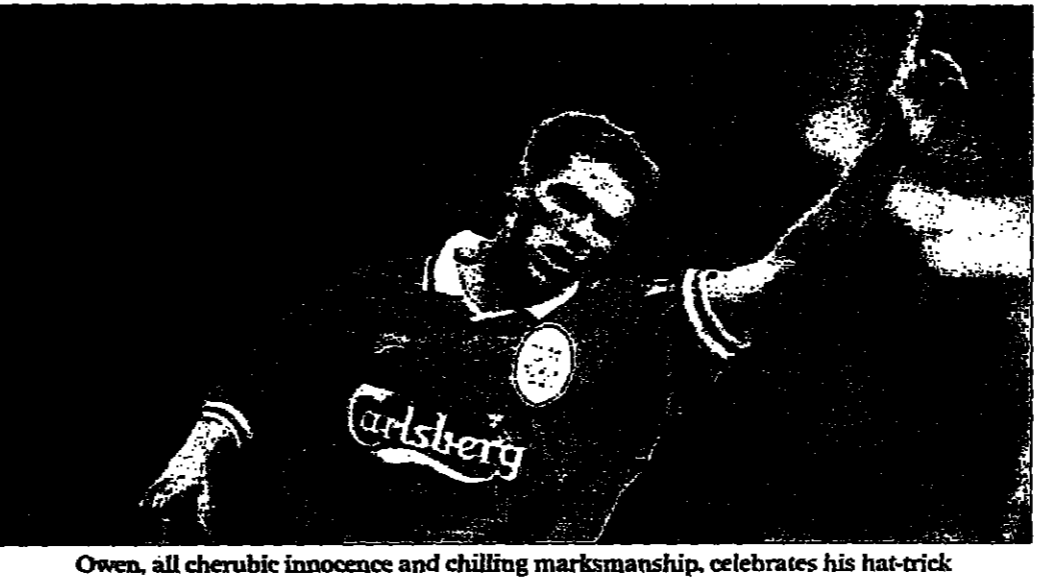
ARSENAL 0 CRYSTAL PALACE 0 By Brian Glanville

"If we'd have got in front," Coppell said, "we'd have had more to grab hold of in the game. At the moment, we haven't scored for such a long time. We haven't got the firepower up front, we admit that."

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: RED-LETTER DAY AT HILLSBOROUGH, RED MIST AT GOODISON

Unstoppable Owen restores the public's faith

Only Jimmy Greaves and Alan Shearer were younger when they scored hat-tricks in the top division. Owen is in their company, in their class.



Owen, all cherubic innocence and chilling marksmanship, celebrates his hat-trick

their Achilles' heel and is why they will probably not win the FA Carling Premiership. Like Southampton a week earlier, Sheffield Wednesday scored three times and each goal was perfectly avoidable. Liverpool should have won this game handsomely. Instead, they struggled to save it.

Everton pay for Ferguson's folly

TO LOSE one striker in the first 15 minutes of a game may be regarded as a misfortune; to lose both looks like carelessness. In Everton's case, it was lack of discipline on the part of a player entrusted with the captain's armband — but then Duncan Ferguson, like Paul Gascoigne, is the type of person these things happen to.

range. The Goodison band tried to raise hopes by playing the theme from 'The Great Escape', but Thomson's deflected overhead kick proved too little, too late.

Ginola rises to unlikely challenge

DAVID GINOLA is not the person you would expect to turn to in a crisis, not in football, anyway. Good looks, flowing locks and flashy skills, he fulfills the maverick archetype almost perfectly. Facing relegation? Need a midfield batter? Call for Rodney Marsh? Me neither.

er, was asked afterwards. "How's Jürgen?" "How's Darren?" And so it went on, a press conference that said much about Tottenham's season, hamstrung by absenteeism. At least Ginola is responding to the challenge.

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# Why boring bits should not be skated over

Today, let us sing in praise of boring bits. Boring bits are an absolutely essential aspect of sport and, for that matter, of life. Boring bits are the bedrock of family life. No one in his right mind wants to live like a character in a Dostoevsky novel or, to be really far-fetched, an episode of *EastEnders*.

There are plenty of boring bits in sport, as any one who attends live events knows. And they matter more deeply than television can ever know. Boring bits make possible the rare moments of skill, beauty, excitement, drama, gratification, joy and sadness.

And that is what I love about Eurosport when they televise a

leading event like the Winter Olympic Games. They bring you plenty of boring bits. And without boring bits, there is no understanding. Understanding is especially important in winter sports, which are unfamiliar to most of the viewers in Europe.

Compare and contrast Eurosport with Sky. It is like being offered a drink. Eurosport give you a quarter-bottle of Scotch in a tumbler; no water, no ice, nothing. You asked for a drink, that's a drink.

But when Sky gives you a drink, you get an umbrella, several straws, chunks of fruit and you must drink the whole thing out of a coconut. Everything tastes rather too much of lemonade. Of course, the live

sport Sky brings us is great, but I do wish they would learn to leave well alone. A glass of malt whisky does not need a cherry in it.

Eurosport bring you plenty of boring bits. Its exhaustive, exhausting wall-to-wall coverage gives you in superplus the common currency of sport. Which is failure. And before we can understand success, we must understand failure.

This is true in all sports, but it is most obviously true of figure skating. Television is marvellous at figure skating — and also, it totally fails to get to grips with the sport. This contradiction is clear enough if you attend a big skating championships.

Television cannot give you the sense of cold. The biting

chill of the indoor arena takes me straight back to the Silver Blades ice rink in Streatham and to the great sadness of my life. I never learnt to do that crash halt, when you stop dead at the edge of the rink and cover the girls' ankles with snow.

Television fails to give us two more essential aspects of the sport. "What are conditions like, Simon?" I was once asked by the sports editor on my rinkside telephone when I covered a world champion-



ship. "It's well slippery out there."

This really is tremendously astute observation. An ice rink, especially after the ice cleaning machine has done its stuff, really is the most frightfully skiddy place not at all like the ploughed and harrowed surface of Silver Blades on a Saturday morning.

Television cannot tell you about the size of the arena, either. Wherever a skater goes, he remains centre-screen. But he is covering an immense

amount of ground and at a quite tremendous speed. Rinkside, you hear the scrapes and scrawps of blade on ice: a sinister, exhilarating sound.

Television viewers, missing these matters, cannot help but see skating as a namby-pamby business, a poor form of art camped up into a poor sort of sport. You need several hours of boring bits to reveal the truth. If you want to understand the champion, any champion, you must watch the entire event. By the losers you shall know them.

Curling has become a minor triumph, because the BBC has shown so much of it — boring bits and all. This was forced on them by the repeated cancellation of the Alpine events. By showing us the boring bits, the

BBC let the story unfold at its own pace. That is why the roaring girls have been a delight.

That decision was forced upon them, but the BBC made a right decision, it seems, on purpose, when they chose to show every one of the last dozen in the men's skating. So we watched failure. Falls. Fear. You skate for dough and you jump for dough and the first hour of failure set the scene for the second hour of medal-hunting. The initial hour of failure left us in no doubt: it really is well slippery out there.

An artist is normally in control of his art, ballet dancers don't spend half their time falling over, but skating is performed, quite literally, on

the edge of the possible. So, for that matter, is every kind of sport.

Ilya Kulik went first of the final group of six. Had the television coverage begun with him, we would have seen a very good skater, but the boring bits told us another and better story. They told us that the performance was sensational: brilliant, beautiful, brave. We knew we were watching a sport, not a parade of posters.

Kulik's perfection undid all those that followed. We watched routines fall apart under the pressures of Kulik's performance. This was a magnificent two hours of sport and the television coverage was more or less perfect. Why? Because of the boring bits.

"This was gung-ho support for the 'culture' of football, alongside one of the most pitiful displays I've seen"

## United we stand and fall together

By an unfortunate accident — it surely can't have been on purpose — a large number of Brighton and Hove Albion fans turned up on Saturday to their temporary home in Gillingham wearing plastic yellow firemen's hats.

This was a big occasion for Brighton and the fans were in sunny mood. Not only had they successfully rallied support for a second "Fans United", not only was the sun shining, but the fixture was against Doncaster Rovers, the only club in the league unequivocally worse at football. Life was good, therefore. It even called for balloons and ribbon.

When you are placed 91st in the league (with 22 points), it is pleasant to meet the club at 92nd (with 15) — though perhaps not quite so pleasant if, in the event, you can't achieve more than a multiplying goalless draw.



LYNNE TRUSS

But what was the significance of those helmets, you ask. Well, it was all quite innocently charitable, apparently. Just part of the "Fans United" fun and games. Nothing to do with unsettling poor, nervy Doncaster, who famously came home one day in June 1985 to find the grandstand at Belle Vue a blackened ruin surrounded by fire engines and the club's main shareholder, Kenneth Richardson, facing a charge of conspiracy to cause arson. You don't say "Nee naw" near Doncaster fans, except with malicious intent. You don't say: "Was that a phalanx of bulldozers I just saw heading for Belle Vue?" And presumably, you don't wear firemen's helmets, except out of pure thoughtlessness.

Saturday was all about solidarity, you see. Brighton lost the Goldstone Ground last season and were nearly starved out of existence; similarly, Doncaster now hear *Light My Fire and Smoke Gets in Your Eyes* played impishly on the sound system wherever

they happen to roam and, agonisingly, are powerless to stop the rot at home except to yell "Richardson out" and watch in horror as the standard of football sinks and swirls inexorably down the plug-hole.

In terms of footie symbolism, then, it was a strange, complicated day and one wasn't sure whether to laugh or cry. With a crowd of 6,339 turning up (some — as we were often reminded — from Germany), here was excellent gung-ho support for the "culture" of football, alongside one of the most pitiful displays of the sport I've seen. Picture the excellent prospect for Brighton, Doncaster have conceded 80 goals so far this season. Could Brighton make it 81? 82? 83? Well, could they banana, quite frankly. Could they banana.

No wonder the home crowd turned a bit nasty in the second half. Charitable fellow-feeling towards a suffering club is all very well, but if we can't beat Doncaster, we might as well shoot



They came to Priestfield to support Fans United, where the activity on the terraces was more interesting than on the pitch. Photograph: Andrew Hasson

ourselves. Long balls went forward splendidly enough, Peter Smith dashed down the right wing, Stuart Storer was impressive in his first game back. And yet, ultimately, "all going and no dinner" was the phrase that came to mind and goal-hungry Brighton fans were sent home unrepentant, with not even a bone to chew on.

On the brighter side, however, perhaps Saturday was a turning point for Doncaster, for in goal they had Tony Parks, who played for Tottenham Hotspur many moons ago, apparently. True, their point on Saturday left them still seven adrift at the bottom of the league, but at least they have a goalkeeper worthy of the name and, for the first time in ages, Doncaster's line-up of doesn't

seem entirely to have been composed under the influence of Ealing comedy.

Last time Brighton played Doncaster, you see, management of the team had just devolved to Mark Weaver, Doncaster's commercial manager and a friend of Mr Richardson — three authentic managers having left in short succession and in despair. This was last October at Belle Vue and it is an excellent story, unless you happen to be a goalkeeper.

Needing a goalkeeper, Weaver looked around for inspiration and lighted on David Smith, a neighbour, recruiting him on the principle that he played for a Sunday team and had won applause for

his ability to kick the ball as far as the halfway line. You can guess what happened next. According to legend, he had to be coaxed, scared out of the dressing-room for the second half. He let in three goals altogether (in the Ealing comedy version, incidentally, he is played by Arthur Mullard).

No wonder Doncaster, like Brighton, can only keep one eye on the game these days. On the day that their team go out, limping, with drawing-pins inside their boots, the supporters won't be particularly surprised. The Albion, of course, has a measure of sympathy for Donny's plight: the fans who took home a little piece of hallowed Goldstone turf still water it nightly with tears. Hence the ostensibly selfless attempt to turn

the crucial "six-pointer" on Saturday into a weeping-wall occasion, with international e-mail messages of support for Doncaster (from Venezuela, New Zealand, Arizona) posted up to be read and digested in dignified silence, like the names of the glorious dead.

There is no disguising the fact, though, that both sides desperately needed to win on Saturday, nor that neither team had sufficient gumption to do it. It was High Noon played out with feather dusters and the high sentiment of the surrounding occasion just made the ignominy worse. For Brighton not to take three points from an undernourished side such as Doncaster, especially in a context of hospitality and brotherliness — well, it just wasn't fair.

The trouble the occasion highlighted for me was that, in football, there is only one way of expressing yourself: with support. When a club is doing well, or when it's flayed alive, you support it. What can Chelsea fans do if they disagree with the sacking of Ruud Geffers? They can turn out in force in blue shirts. If they agree with the change? Turn up, in identical blue shirts. No wonder the "bad owners" of football clubs get away with it.

To judge by the occasion on Saturday, they could stage the matches in a car park 100 miles away; they could field 11 assorted sheep and giraffes. Still the fans will turn up to celebrate (if nothing else) their defiance of the threat to their "culture".

Sports letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5211. They should include a daytime telephone number.

## SPORTS LETTERS

e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk Please include address and telephone number

### NFL a poor role model

From Mr Charlie Roberts

Sir, The suggestion that Association football should look to the NFL for an example of a sport with immaculate refereeing standards, few rule changes and a mind above money matters (letters, February 2 and 9), is ridiculous.

The Superbowl officials, far from not making a single error, missed countless examples of downfield holding (pointed out by Channel 4's excellent commentary team) and even blew up for a deeply obscene "illegal fac catch signal" in the third quarter, a penalty I have never seen before in 11 years of following the sport.

Unlike Fifa, the NFL changes its rules every year. In the last decade we've seen constant tinkering to speed up the game, boost scoring and protect star players from injury — all financial decisions, all made with the television networks in mind. These rule changes included the abolition of instant replay to determine whether or not a foul had been committed, as the networks felt such deliberation was slowing the game down.

If Premiership players are mercenary, how would one

describe the Washington Redskins' Sean Gilbert, a star player who sat out the whole of last season because he felt his multimillion-dollar contract made him insultingly underpaid?

And Premiership chairmen pale in comparison with their American counterparts, who regularly uproot their entire team (or "franchise") to move to a new city if they think they can make a few extra bucks elsewhere. Can you imagine Martin Edwards moving Manchester United to Birmingham if the local council refused to buy him a new stadium? This is the equivalent of what Cleveland Browns fans had to put up with two years ago.

American football is a magnificent sport, but it is a sport built for and dictated to by television. As a viewer, that's usually a good thing. As a fan, it can result in the complete disappearance of the team you've grown-up with. If the NFL does have a lesson for the Premiership, it is a warning of what can happen when a game becomes saturated with money, not a shining example of how to run a modern professional sports league.

Yours faithfully,  
CHARLIE ROBERTS,  
13 Spring Meadow,  
Bracknell,  
Berkshire RG12 2JP.

### Why do women want to stay separate?

From Mr Jim Park

Sir, Sarah Potter's article on the lack of funding for women snooker players (February 5) makes me ask why it is necessary to have separate women's championships for events which do not require male strength.

I remember Princess Anne beating a lot of men at equestrian events in the early 1970s and Cathy Foster beating me to get into the UK sailing team in the 1984 Olympic Games, both of which required more strength and stamina than some sports or games where there are still separate women's championships such as

snooker, bowls or chess which need only skill and an ability to keep cool under pressure.

I am sure the feminists among your readers would complain if it was said that women were not at least the equals of men in mental strength and fitness, but to seek equal funding and at the same time want to retain separate women's championships in such events somewhat hypocritical. Will women competitors explain?

Yours faithfully,  
JIM PARK,  
Rivelin, Hillside Road,  
Pinner Hill, Middlesex HA5 3YJ.

Heaton (United States), and bronze for David Earl of Northesk (Great Britain). I note both the silver medals went to John R. Heaton (US).

I hope to be watching television in 2002 to see the return of this event, and its ice warriors, to the Olympic programme.

Yours faithfully,  
PHILIP MILLS,  
26 Castlemartin,  
Ingleby Barwick,  
Skegton on Tees TS17 5BA.

From Mr Benjamin James

Sir, I was pleased to see the article (February 9) promoting the sport of fencing. The mention that the majority of the participants were male put me in mind of the observation that in a county competition all a female equestrian has to do to win is to turn up.

I then went to my male-dominated fencing club and found that I was the only male there.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,  
BENJAMIN D. JAMES,  
Glyndale Cottage,  
Hankham,  
Sussex.  
gjd@pccpostage.computerworld.com

### Ear-biting fudge

From Mr Ian Simpson

Sir, The governors of rugby football have found Kevin Yates guilty of biting a lump from an opponent's ear. Their verdict is a ban of six months.

This dreadful fudge brings enormous discredit to the professional game. Mr Yates should have been banned from the professional game for life as an example of conduct that is totally unacceptable in any form of human activity.

Yours sincerely,  
IAN SIMPSON,  
2 Route de Kerambelle,  
Lanildut,  
29840 France.  
ian.simpson@wanadoo.fr

This week in THE TIMES

Tomorrow  
Fire and ice: the stars of the NHL clash at the Winter Olympics with Wayne Gretzky, above, leading Canada against their deadly American ice hockey rivals.

Wednesday  
Gianluca Vialli faces his first selection test in charge of Chelsea — but will he pick himself for the Coca-Cola Cup-tie against Arsenal?

Thursday  
After defeat against France, what changes will England make to the team to play Wales?

Saturday  
Football Saturday: the Premiership match-by-match. Oliver Holt, Steve McManaman and Danny Baker.

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fail Irish

Chasten Vickers learns lesson

Dallaglio doubtful to take on Wales

By MARK SOLTYSEK... LAWRENCE Dallaglio links up with the England squad today uncertain whether he will be fit to face Wales in the Five Nations Championship at Twickenham on Saturday.

Allied Dunbar Premiership: Saracens' lead short-lived as Harlequins are beaten

Newcastle resume pole position

Newcastle 43 Harlequins 15

By JOHN HOPKINS... THIS was almost embarrassing for Harlequins. At half-time yesterday, the score was 31-3, thanks to a blitzkrieg of three tries by Newcastle in the last seven minutes.



Lam, who had an outstanding game for Newcastle, closes in on Mensah, of Harlequins, yesterday

Lam had a tremendous game. Every time he had the ball in hand, he made yards of ground. He is playing perhaps the best rugby of his life.

but there is a long way to go. It is surprising that, though the season has been going for six months, the Premiership is only at the halfway stage.

those who have criticised him, and Wood was as rumbustious as a Newcastle forward. Even so, it was a surprise when, midway through the second half, Tolert kicked neatly for the corner.

they are mentally drained. Not half as drained as some Harlequins. After a game like this, when so many big hits were made and received, they probably feel they deserve to be paid more.

Bristol's revival comes too late for this season

Bristol 20 Saracens 37

By NICOLAS ANDREWS... TEN games to go and Bristol's future in the Allied Dunbar Premiership first division already looks to be in the hands of the league's administrators.

in that opening period was just the sort of thing that England failed to deliver in Paris. Forwards and backs stood deep and ran at penetrating angles. They took the ball at pace and unloaded it efficiently in the tackle to keep the momentum going.

RESULTS AND TABLES, PAGE 39

Advertisement for Nissan 200SX featuring a large, stylized monster face with sharp teeth and a car. Text includes 'YOU CAN DRIVE WITH A NISSAN' and '200SX'. At the bottom, it says 'Range from £21,400. Model shown 2.0 16v Turbo Touring Pack, £23,900. Prices correct at time of going to press. Call 0345 66 99 66 for more information. For export or tax-free sales call 01772 65 25 66.'

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THE TIMES

# Under the skin of sport

## Conveyor belt for young talent stretches around the world

### Leeds profit from rich Wilkinson inheritance

By Richard Hobson

LAST August, George Graham took solace in defeat against Aston Villa from the performance of an 18-year-old winger named Harry Kewell. "There are at least three more like that from the youth team," the Leeds United manager said. Pushed for names, he grinned broadly before adding cryptically: "Wait, and you'll find out."

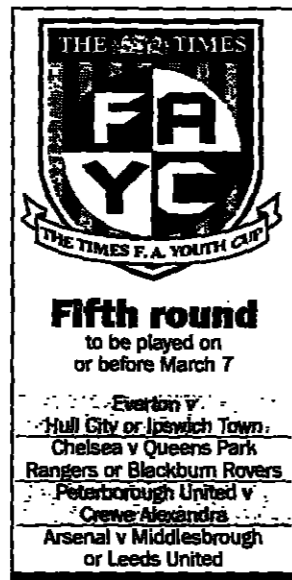
Six months on, it is fair to assume that the trio Graham had in mind comprises Alan Maybury, Lee Matthews and Steven McPhail. Each has made his full debut since while Kewell has flowered into perhaps the brightest attacking teenage player in the FA Carling Premiership, after Michael Owen.

These four youngsters helped Leeds to victory against Crystal Palace in the FA Youth Cup final last season and McPhail, a midfield player whose sweet left foot recalls Kevin Sheedy, the former Ireland international, is the cornerstone of the side defending the competition that is sponsored by *The Times*.

McPhail was outstanding a week ago, when Leeds drew 0-0 at Middlesbrough in the fourth round, not least for his unwavering calmness under pressure and ability to create space in tight areas.

Just 48 hours earlier, he made his first appearance as a substitute for the senior team, against Leicester City. The replay against Middlesbrough takes place at Elland Road tomorrow, with the winners due to meet Arsenal in the quarter-finals.

Football history is full of promising young players with



**Fifth round**  
to be played on or before March 7

**Fourth round**  
Hull City or Ipswich Town  
Chelsea v Queens Park Rangers or Blackburn Rovers  
Preston North End v Arsenal  
Crewe Alexandra  
Arsenal v Middlesbrough or Leeds United



Dunningworth, the Leeds youth coach, anxiously watches the 0-0 draw with Middlesbrough in the FA Youth Cup

great futures behind them. Of the Leeds side that beat Manchester United in the Youth Cup final of 1993, only Noel Whelan is an established Premiership player and even he felt it necessary to leave Elland Road for Coventry City to further his career. In contrast, Gary Neville, David Beckham, Paul Scholes and Nicky Butt have since enjoyed plenty of success at Old Trafford and are destined for World Cup places in the summer.

At least Graham has shown a willingness to integrate young players into his team, encouraged by Eddie Gray, the former Leeds winger, who was promoted from youth to reserve manager during the summer. It was Gray who encouraged Graham to convert Kewell from a full back

with attacking instincts. He, along with David O'Leary, Graham's assistant, witnessed the game at the Riverside Stadium last Monday.

There is a feeling that the youth system, with its labyrinthine scouting network, is Howard Wilkinson's most valuable legacy to the club. "The coaches are only as good as the players brought to them," John Dunningworth, the youth coach, said.

"The secret is to make sure the system rolls along so a consistent flow of the best lads come to the club. The earlier we can get them, the better, because that means they have a real affinity for the club by the time they get as far as this level."

areas no longer exist. The whole world is a single market: Kewell, for example, arrived at 16 from a football academy in New South Wales, Australia. Of the present side, McPhail, an Ireland Under-18 international, and John Butler

**'At this age boys can be brilliant one week but hopeless the next'**

joined the England Youth squad at Manchester immediately after the game against Middlesbrough. Matthews was there already, while Gareth Evans, Kewell's successor at left back, is involved at national under-16 level.

"At this age, boys are very up and down, they can be brilliant one week and hopeless the next, but at some stage they come to a level and that is when we can form a reasonable opinion," Dunningworth, who was a youth coach at Sheffield United for seven years previously, said. "Ability on the ball and awareness of the rest of the team is something we look for, but we also have to take into account their discipline and dedication."

"You can never predict with any certainty who will come through and who will fall back. Having said that, it is clear Steven [McPhail] has great ability. The other lads respond to him, which is a very encouraging sign. He is the sort of player who links up play, who knits things together. It means he might go unnoticed by your average spectator, but not by people who know what they are looking for."

"When one of the boys is called into the first-team squad, it sends a real buzz through the squad. I am sure one reason for the Manchester United lads breaking through is that they pushed each other and saw a way into the first team if they worked hard enough. Self-motivation like that is worth days of coaching."

### Sifting talent can produce mixed feelings

By Mel Webb

Party Colin Springate in the coming days. Springate, the executive director of the Daihatsu Junior Golf Tour (JGT), is rapidly approaching the time when he and his senior aides have to decide who will win places in this year's competition. The problem that they face may be one for which they might be envied, but will be no less painful for all that. The reason — the tour is fast becoming a victim of its own success.

The tour is to be expanded this year to encompass four separate sub-tours, each of which will be for 72 young players. The headache-inducing element is that by the time the deadline for applications is reached on Friday, Springate and his fellow administrators are likely to have to choose their 288 from more than 1,500 applicants.

"Yes, it's a nice problem to have," Springate said. "It means that we can ensure that the standard remains high, but it's never nice to have to tell youngsters that, for all their enthusiasm, they will not get a place."

"What it does do is underline the fact that we are right to want to expand. Demand from boys north of the border has resulted in us staging a Scottish tour for the first time this year, in addition to the National, Southern and Northern tours in the rest of the UK."

"We do not intend to stop here. There is tremendous enthusiasm in the JGT and we can only answer that enthusiasm by expanding."

Springate started the JGT five years ago and, for four of those years, ran it at his own expense. The biggest step forward came last year, when Daihatsu, the Japanese car manufacturer, took on the title sponsorship and *The Times* also became associated with the competition, allowing Springate to become a full-time official for the first time.

All last year's winners will be on board again this season and they have been joined for the first time by Adobe, the American computer software giant. Further, big-name sponsors are expected in the next few weeks.

Sponsors aside, one of the biggest filipps to the JGT's growth came when David Leadbetter, probably the best-known coach in world golf, agreed to become its patron. That Leadbetter's name and reputation helped the competition to grow is beyond doubt: without him, it is doubtful if a link with a powerful junior golf organisation in the United States would have been forged. It was his prompting that last



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year brought together the JGT and the American Junior Golf Association (AJGA) and that synergy between the two organisations is sure to grow.

In the late autumn, Leadbetter funded a visit by two of the JGT's leading players to the United States to play in the AJGA's Rolex State Junior Classic in Florida. Gareth Gillatt and Richard McEvoy, winners of the JGT national division and Tournament of Champions respectively, acquitted themselves well at the Walt Disney World Resort and, although they missed the cut by a couple of shots, were still better for the experience.

Going from winter golf in Great Britain to the heat and humidity of Florida asked a lot of Gillatt and McEvoy. Thickly fringed greens and the experience of the ball flying a couple of clubs more than they expected proved, in the end, just a little too much.

Gillatt and McEvoy went on to receive coaching from Leadbetter at Lake Nona and Springate, who accompanied them, was able to return home with the promise that the JGT would receive invitations for its best players from the AJGA in future years.

Back home, Springate is preparing to stage a four-tournament girls' tour this year, as well as the four divisions of the boys' event, and entries will be taken until May 15 from girls — who must have a handicap of 20 or under and be under 18 on January 1 — for the 42 places available. Boys must be under 18 on January 1 and have a handicap of nine or better.

Applications for entry details for the English divisions of the tour from the Daihatsu Junior Golf Tour, PO Box 3227, Christchurch, Dorset BH23 5EQ; for the Scottish Tour from PO Box 14668, Glenrothes, Fife KY6 3YE. An A4 stamped addressed envelope should be included.

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Lynne Truss, of *The Times*, makes the quarter-final draw with Graham Kelly, chief executive of the FA

### Clifton joins the real tennis set

John Goodbody traces the history of a game of guile with strong royal links

The history of real tennis is a fascinating one. Like many cricket-loving boys, I was introduced to the game at Lord's, where, when rain interrupted play, I used to go across to the court behind the pavilion to watch matches in progress. They were rare opportunities to get to know the sport, for, even 40 years or so later, there are still only 23 courts in Great Britain, the latest of which was opened by Prince Edward at Clifton College, Bristol, on Saturday.

The Prince represented Cambridge University at the sport, becoming the latest in a long line of royal participants. Real tennis began in France in the 11th century, probably first in the cloisters of monasteries and then castle courtyards. Originally played with the hand, it is still called *le jeu de paume* in France and, for many years, a collection of French Impressionist paintings was housed in a former court in a corner of the Tuileries Gardens in Paris.

The game is mentioned in six of Shakespeare's plays,

while both Charles I and Charles II, of England, were known to enjoy a game. Exile in France for James II was made more bearable by his proximity to a court.

A world championship, perhaps the first in any sport, was begun in about 1740, but, by 1797, *The Times* was reporting "the once fashionable game of tennis is in decline". Over the past 200 years, dozens of other activities have overhauled it in popular appeal.

Where better to start a revival than in the schools?

Clifton and Oratory are two that already play and now pupils of Clifton have been attracted to the game. Their £585,000 court, the first in the West of England, has been developed by Bristol and Bath Tennis Club through fund-raising and £350,000 of lottery money from the English Sports Council. Scholarships will be available for both boys and girls.

John Talbot, the master in charge of both tennis and real tennis at Clifton, said: "It's advantage as a sport is that it

is esoteric. People are intrigued by the mystery that surrounds it. "In many ways, it is technically more difficult than tennis. You cannot go through a couple of points without thinking or otherwise you'll be down two or three games. "The service is less important than in tennis and is really only a way of just putting the ball into play. I regularly play with people 30-40 years older than me. You need guile and cunning."

Anticipation of where the ball will land is vital. As the French say: *le balle cherche le bon joueur* (the ball looks for the good player).

Talbot is not concerned that the technique of his tennis players will be affected. "They are quite different strokes. In tennis, there is more top spin, more emphasis on serve and volley, whereas in real tennis there is a lot of cutting and slicing of the ball. In fact, tennis players find it improves their footwork."

As Charlie Toogood, 44, said: "You have got to think it is not a game of power. Already, more than 20 pupils at Clifton have started playing. One of them, Owen Morgan, 17, said: "It is very different from any other game I have ever played."

Talbot is looking for pupils with "a good eye for a ball" — tennis and squash players and also cricketers. He hopes to have "master sessions" to help kindle interest. "We can now provide every pupil with an opportunity to play the game," he said. They will find much reward there.



Prince Edward, happy to be back in the new facility after the opening ceremony at Clifton

THE TIMES RACING FI THE TIMES COURSE SPEC



# Ronald Gribble goes to the Italian Alps to learn *langlauf* and masters the art of walking like a penguin



Ramblers get the chance to ski in the Prato Piazza at 2,000 metres near the old Austro-Hungarian border: this soup-bowl-shaped meadow, set between half a dozen peaks, resembles a white moonscape, criss-crossed by a spaghetti junction of pistes

## The full monty — on skis

**W**e followed the antics of our ski instructor and pranced along in the snow like John Cleese in *Monty Python's Ministry of Silly Walks* sketch, swinging the arms like recruits for the Royal Marines.

Then a line of blind skiers, led by a sighted instructor, came down the piste in formation. "If they can do it, so can you," said Nigel Shervey, our instructor, who had accepted the challenge to teach our 13-

Having mastered the slide and the long strides of the silly walk, Nigel came up with another gem: "Now you must learn to walk like a penguin." By making herringbone patterns in the snow with our skis, we discovered we could climb slopes, and by turning the ankles inwards so that the edges of the skis bit into the snow, we could stop ourselves slipping backwards.

Although safer than downhill skiing, *langlauf* can be more tiring because you do not use ski lifts and need sufficient stamina to get to the top in order to ski down. But the freedom to be able to zigzag through snow-covered forests and valleys and enjoy mile after mile of dramatic scenery is worth the effort. On downhill slopes there is the thrill of the wind in your hair as you whizz along the tracks and around bends, brushing fir trees, like a bobsleigh rider.

One morning, in temperatures of -15C, we watched the real professionals of the sport as 1,500 skiers lined up for the start of the annual 42-kilometre Dolomites race. In a blaze of ski suits, their breath freezing in the icy wind, they charged off like troops on a medieval battlefield.

The Arctic conditions later changed to brilliant sunshine and after skiing for a few hours I found myself stripping off on the slopes after becoming overheated in my ski suit.

Among our party were two retired police officers, one a former Scotland Yard marksman and an explosives expert who had decided to learn to ski at the age of 61 after successfully completing three London Marathons. We also had a former BBC radio producer, a swimming teacher, a physiotherapist, a lawyer, a German woman who had last skied as a child in Bavaria, and two French women.

Cross-country skiing exercises every muscle. After a couple of days we began to hurt from top to toe, but had a heated pool back at the Hotel Union to ease our aches and an excellent five-course dinner to look forward to.



Ski instructor Nigel Shervey follows the 30-kilometre route of the old railway from Cortina d'Ampezzo to Dobbiaco

Skiers can go on to learn freestyle skating. The skier moves from the tramlines to the centre of the piste and raises each leg, in a frog-like stretch, pushing down on the other ski to produce an elegant gliding motion. At the same time skaters use the poles in a stabilising movement to propel themselves forward.

On Tuesday afternoon, as we skied across frozen lakes and followed the route of the old railway track from Cortina d'Ampezzo to Dobbiaco, a low-level military jet screamed overhead. Later we heard the

news that a cable car had crashed at Cavalese when the cables were severed by a US Prowler from the Aviano air base near us.

On the fourth day I sprained an ankle and hobbled back to base. But I reduced the swelling by putting my foot under an icy tap that night and again before breakfast and was back on the slopes without a break.

Other minor injuries at the end of the week amounted to a black-and-blue arm, two sprained thumbs and a bruised coccyx. Not bad considering we were all new to the sport and managed to progress from the nursery slopes to more daring things.

But the stars of the week were the group of blind Italian skiers staying at our hotel. They followed instructions without fear and their accomplishments and sense of humour on the slopes was an inspiration to us all.



A break to admire the view

**GETTING THERE**

The author travelled with Ramblers Holidays, Box 43, Weston Garden City, Herts, AL8 6PQ (01707 331133). A week's cross-country skiing in Dobbiaco from February to March costs from £320 to £360 including flights, half-board, ski hire, boots and instruction.



strong party to cross-country ski in a week.

I had joined a Ramblers beginners' course at Dobbiaco in the Dolomites, one of the best areas for cross-country skiing in Europe with more than 120 miles of prepared ski trails. We were learning *langlauf*, the 1,000-year-old Nordic method of travelling between villages cut off by snow.

After being fitted with ski shoes, which look like lightweight continental football boots, we were given a pair of narrow racing skis. Nigel then took us to a white valley and showed us the tramlines, cut in the snow by a tractor, which skiers skate along.

A small metal bar in the toe of each boot locks into the centre of the skis and acts as a hinge so that the skier can raise the heel, as in walking. Cross-country skiing is a blend of walking and skating. With the body held upright, the knees slightly bent and using balance to transfer weight from one ski to the other, learners can slide along in the snow at about 5mph.

## A military two-step on ice

The skiers stood in the lee of a wall built of ice blocks. Their white clothing helped them to blend in with the snow high up in the mountains of northeast Turkey between Erzurum and the Iranian border.

These were ski-troops taking part in a Nato exercise in the mid-1980s. As I watched, they moved on with loping strides, legs and arms, skis and sticks used in a synopated rhythm. Ever since, I have wanted to try their type of skiing.

Now, at the age of 54 and never having set foot on a ski before, I have been trying to emulate them, going to *langlauf* school in Austria, where I could appreciate the beauty of the sun glinting on razor-backed peaks.

Having seen these ski-troops moving with confidence and control, I thought cross-country skiing would be a cinch. Then, a few months ago, my wife Adele announced: "I have always fancied skiing. Not that downhill stuff with hordes of people, but rather like those soldiers you saw in Turkey. But if we don't do it soon, we'll be too old..."

Within no time, the Ingtham's winter

sports brochure had arrived and we were booked into the Hotel Salzburgerhof, Zell am See, Austria — which proved a place of friendly comfort, superb food and warming liquids. Because of all this, my wish to emulate a ski-soldier promptly evaporated. However, my wife was still taking the project seriously. So, on day two, Brigitte Niecha, who owns a local *langlauf* school, collected us from the hotel for instruction in the art.

Courses are usually eight hours spread over four days. Brigitte demonstrated the technique, moving with balletic precision. She was poised and precise, we fell over — several times. But then Brigitte had been doing this sort of thing since she was six; we had been doing it since a quarter to eleven.

So we tried again and again and, as the advice to all novice skiers echoed across the snow — "Bend the knees!" — the message started to sink in and our confidence grew. Then came the sticks, which returned us to utter confusion.

Brigitte patiently explained and demonstrated again how it was done: "It is very important that you get the tech-

nique right. Take time — and practise!" Stopping — "snowploughing" in ski vernacular — is yet another technique to acquire. Like much of the learning process it generates expletives. The charming Brigitte had heard them all before, many times, in many languages.

Says Brigitte: "I may take a dozen experienced people and usually ski for a couple of hours, stop for refreshment and then do another hour. *Langlauf* provides excellent exercise. It is an enjoyable way of exploring. I sometimes take people in their seventies. Tracks are clearly marked and it is becoming more popular. Some people combine *langlauf* and downhill during their holiday."

Adele and I enjoyed our introduction to skiing and will try it again. But if I am really honest I don't think I would make a ski soldier, after all. Age was not the problem I thought it might have been — but I am too old to enlist.

**STUART BIRCH**

Prices at Brigitte Niecha's *Langlauf* school: five people minimum; four half days, total eight hours, inc. equipment: 1050 Austrian schillings (about £68) each.

**REMEMBER THIS**

DO take a windproof anorak and ski pants. Downhill ski suits are OK, but can be a bit too warm. DO take long ski socks and thermal underwear. Shorts are better than long johns. DO take a woolen hat and thermal gloves. DO take sunglasses or goggles and a high-factor sunscreen and lip-salve. DO take a small first-aid kit and knee and ankle support bandages if you need them. DO take anti-inflammatory cream for sprains and bruises.

DON'T leave exercise until the last minute. Build up muscles and stamina by walking, running or cycling. DON'T take heavy jumpers. Polo-neck shirts and sweat shirts that can be peeled off if you get too warm are more flexible. DON'T forget to take a small rucksack to carry spare clothing, plus a half-litre of water and a bar of chocolate to give you an energy boost.

Warm work in the sun

**SHEEHAN on BRIDGE**

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Holding up aces is always taken as a sign of good play, even if there is no immediate benefit; both in defence or as declarer the added flexibility may help later in the hand. This is a good example, from the third round of the 1997 Premier League.

Dealer South	Game all	IMPs
♠ 754		
♥ KQ		
♦ 876		
♣ J884		
♠ 1063		♠ K92
♥ 108762		♥ A85
♦ K85		♦ A932
♣ 52		♣ Q63
♠ A9J		
♥ J43		
♦ J104		
♣ AK107		

Contract: One No-Trump by South. Lead: eight of hearts

**KEENE on CHESS**

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

**Linares**

The tournament set for Linares, Spain, which runs from February 22 to March 9, can claim to be one of the strongest in the history of the game. The field consists of seven top players who will contest a double-round competition. They are: Garry Kasparov (Russia), Vladimir Kramnik (Russia), Viswanathan Anand (India), Vassily Ivanchuk (Ukraine), Veselin Topalov (Bulgaria), Alexei Shirov (Spain) and Peter Swidler (Russia). This week I shall be previewing the tournament. Today's game sees Kasparov, the winner last year, outplaying Alexei Shirov, the Latvian grandmaster.

White: Alexei Shirov  
Black: Garry Kasparov  
Linares 1997

**Stilian Defence**

1 e4	c5
2 Nf3	d6
3 d4	cxd4
4 Nxd4	Nf6
5 Nc3	a6
6 Bc3	Ng4
7 Bg5	h6
8 Bx4	g5
9 Bg3	Bg7
10 Bc2	h5
11 Bc4	Bc7
12 B3	Bc7
13 0-0	Nc6
14 B2	e6
15 Nce2	N4
16 b3	g4
17 h4	h3
18 Bc3	h3
19 g3	Ne6
20 Qc3	0-0
21 Ra1	f5
22 c4	Qd5
23 Nc3	Ra8
24 Rf1	e5
25 Nc6	Bc6
26 b4	Qa3

**Diagram of final position**

**London clubs**

The Mind Sports Olympiad Trophy competition has now replaced the Martell Cognac Competition. The draw for this competition took place on February 10 at the RAC Club in Pall Mall.

**FIRST-ROUND DRAW.** Home House v Gaird and Cambridge B; Hurlingham A v Swale; W.C. B v Rochester; A. SEC v Twickenham; Ashmoleum v Roshampton B; Oxford and Cambridge A v Hurlingham B; Chelsea Arts v PAC A.

First-round matches should be played before April 2. The best losing team will be invited to play in the second round. For further details please contact Barry Martin, tel/fax 0181-742 2311. The South Lodge, Chiswick House Grounds, Chiswick W4 2RP.

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

**By Philip Howard**

**MAXWELL'S DEMON**

a. An imaginary being  
b. A game of Patience  
c. A Nott's bowler's yorker

**MAIOLI**

a. Feline  
b. Bookbinding  
c. South Pacific Islands

**ESCAPEMENT**

a. Action Colditz  
b. Part of a clock  
c. Holidays

**MAGNETO**

a. Non-ferrous metal  
b. A boys' magazine  
c. A generator

Answers on page 43

**By Raymond Keene**

Black to play. This position is from the game Fernandez — Rodriguez, Spain 1997. Black has many powerful trumps in this position: his active knights, pressure on the f-file and the passed pawn on d2. How did he combine all these to force a quick win?

Solution on page 43

مكتبة من الأصل



chef to go... taste of... rectorship... ter float

Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Table of stock prices categorized by industry: ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, BANKS, BREWERIES, PUBS & REST, BUILDING MATERIALS, CHEMICALS, CONSTRUCTION, DISTRIBUTORS, ELECTRICITY, ELECTRONIC & ELECT, ENGINEERING, ENGINEERING VEHICLES, FOOD MANUFACTURERS, HEALTHCARE, HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT, INSURANCE, INVESTMENT TRUSTS, LEISURE & HOTELS, MEDIA, MINING, OIL & GAS, OTHER FINANCIAL, PHARMACEUTICALS, PRINTING & PAPER, PROPERTY, RETAILERS GENERAL, RETAILERS FOOD, SUPPORT SERVICES, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, TRANSPORT, WATER.

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# Chef to get taste of directorship after float

By Dominic Walsh

TONY TOBIN, the television chef, looks set to become a director of public company plans by Elite Restaurants to float on the Alternative Investment Market in a year's time come fruition.

Elite, based in Surrey, has grown to seven restaurants in just three years, but the group is to seek an AIM listing in order to speed up expansion. The focus will be Tortellini, a pasta-based concept, which accounts for five of the group's restaurants.

Paul Monalto, the company's Italian-born founder and chairman, said: "We could carry on as we are, growing organically, but an AIM float would give us the means to really speed up the process, and expand beyond our current area of Surrey, Sussex and Kent."

He said he wanted to have around a dozen restaurants by the time Elite joins the AIM. Two more Tortellini will

open in Epsom and Sevenoaks in the next two months.

Mr Monalto said that the average cost of opening a Tortellini, which competes in the same market as PizzaExpress and ASK Pizza, was around £150,000, an investment that he reckons to recoup over 12 to 18 months.

Elite is forecast to make a profit of around £750,000 this year, on turnover of £3.5 million.

Mr Tobin, who has become a celebrity through his appearances on *Ready Steady Cook*, is group executive chef (not to be confused with chief executive), but spends most of his time in the kitchen of The Dining Room, a more upmarket restaurant in Reigate, Surrey, which also forms part of the group.

Mr Monalto said that he intended to make the chef a director after the floatation, and would be giving him share options.



Tony Tobin is executive chef as opposed to chief executive

# Fuji claims its cameras are copied

By Our City Staff

FUJIFILM Photo Film is claiming that rival companies are illegally making copies of its single-use cameras.

The company has filed a complaint with the International Trade Commission, a US government agency, accusing 28 companies of infringing its patents on the popular cameras, which Fuji says it developed and introduced in Japan and the US under the trademark Fujicolor QuickSnap.

It alleges the companies operate mainly overseas and import the cameras, sales of which have been growing more quickly than those of traditional cameras. Among the companies named were Konica, Opticam, Penmax and Vivitar.

Eastman Kodak, Fuji's arch rival in the film business, said it would support the Japanese-owned company's complaint.

After Fuji introduced the cameras about ten years ago, Kodak launched a competing product. The companies now cross-license patents.

In its complaint, Fuji said the companies make single-use cameras or re-use shells made by Fuji and others and then sell the cameras in America.

# High-risk customers face bigger charges in banking revolution

By Richard Miles, Banking Correspondent

BANKS may soon start charging customers according to their individual risk profiles, forcing people with poor credit records to pay more for loans and other services.

Customers who visit bank branches infrequently may also pay less for the services.

But consumer groups fear such revolutionary changes could penalise the poor and the disadvantaged. They would effectively be denied access to credit at reasonable rates and, in some cases, to the entire banking system.

Peter Ellwood, chief executive of Lloyds TSB, the UK's largest high street bank, says he is exploring ways of linking charges and costs to a customer's risk profile and profitability.

However, Mr Ellwood emphasises that such practices, which he believes to be more equitable than current price structures, are unlikely to be adopted for several years because "no one wants to be the first to break ranks on the issue of differential pricing."



Peter Ellwood: equitable

the same rate to someone with a poor risk profile?

"We have to look at linking customers to their profitability and risk," he says.

The issue of tailoring price to frequency a customer uses a branch is far thornier. Abbey National upset its customers in September when it said it would charge those with an Instant Plus account £1 for every withdrawal, deposit or statement request made at the counter.

At the time, Abbey National said Instant Plus was designed as a card-based account, implying that holders

would continue to receive free banking as long as they used only the automatic teller machines (ATMs).

Transactions conducted over the counter at a branch can cost banks four or five times as much to process.

Another idea currently under discussion by banks is an "Internet and ATM only" account. In return for agreeing not to use the branches, the customer would pay lower fees.

NatWest is one bank considering this option, but it has emphasised that its thinking is still very much in its infancy. To some extent, differential pricing already exists at the top end of the market, as banks increasingly promote fee-based accounts that are linked to additional services. However, the majority of customers continue to enjoy free banking.

Consumer groups fear that the advent of differential pricing will lead to further branch closures, affecting rural communities and people living in rundown city centres.

The National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux last year accused the banks of turning their backs on the low-paid and disadvantaged.

# Insurers talk of mergers in wake of heavy weather and currency costs

By Marianne Curphey, Insurance Correspondent

COMPOSITE insurers outperformed the FTSE All-share index by almost 20 per cent last year but their profits have peaked and will start to fall in 1998, according to analysts.

Heavy weather losses, the impact of currency movements and falling investment income are likely to take their toll on the full-year profit figures for 1998-99.

The composites are due to report over the next month and Commercial Union and Guardian Royal Exchange kick off the sector by unveiling 1996-97 figures on February 25 followed by Royal & SunAlliance on March 5 and General Accident on March 12.

Despite the gloomy predictions, the shares may continue to rise over the short term because the market believes that difficult trading conditions will force

insurers to become merger or takeover candidates.

Salomon Smith Barney is bullish on share prices and has increased target prices for shares for CU (currently £10.13, target £10.50), Royal & SunAlliance (currently 683p, target 800p) and GRE (currently 398p, target 425p). GA, which closed at £12.87 last week has already broken through the broker's £12.75 target.

Salomon's Andrew Pitt has reduced 1997 and 1998 forecasts but expects profits to bounce back in 1999 and says the UK composites still look good value when compared to their European peer group.

Meanwhile, Merrill Lynch forecasts that the downturn in UK underwriting will not be severe but will be prolonged. Steven Bird, insurance analyst, calculates that by 1999 underwriting losses will be equivalent to 7 per cent of premium income and this will increase to 8 per cent in 2000. This compares with 2 per cent in

1996 and 6 per cent to the end of December 1997. He said: "The fundamentals do not look too attractive, but perversely the City may sense that tougher conditions will lead to consolidation. In addition, composites invest heavily in equities and bonds and while their profits are coming under pressure their net assets continue to grow as the market rises."

He has pencilled in a £419 million operating profit for CU (1996: £444 million) and a figure of £188 million for GRE (1996: £281 million). Analysts believe GRE's recent purchase of PPP healthcare will enhance earnings in the long term. For RSA he has downgraded his forecast to £869 million (1996: £887 million) after RSA's comments about its exposure to storm damage at Christmas.

Finally GA is expected to unveil operating profit for 1997 of £503 million, up from £421 million in 1996.

Financial market data table with columns for 1997/98 and 1997/99, listing various companies and their performance metrics.

Advertisement for 'THE TIMES 1000' business reference book and CD-ROM. Includes text: 'GET THE FACTS and THE FIGURES', 'The definitive business reference', 'With full listings of the UK's and Europe's top 1000 companies', '£40', 'NEW for 1998', 'The Times 1000 Index on CD-Rom', 'The ready-made mailing list to 2000 of the world's largest businesses', '£150 (inc. VAT)', 'SPECIAL OFFER Buy the book and the CD for just £170 (inc. VAT)', and ordering information.

RESULTS AND STATISTICS

**TODAY**  
Interims: IAF, Workspace (q3), Final: Cliveden, Envromed, Euro-tunnel, Flying Flowers, Norsk Hydro, Royalblue, Economic statistics: EU finance ministers' meeting.

**TOMORROW**  
Interims: Compel, Freeport Leisure, John Huggins, Macro 4, Final: Anglo 8 Overseas Trust, Barclays, Clondal-kil, Dobbies Garden Centres, Irish Permanent, Low & Bonar, Polyhedron Holdings, Quarto, Sedgwick, Smithkline Beecham (q4), Stadium Group, Temple Bar Inv Trust, Trust of Property Shares, Economic statistics: UK Jan PPI, US Jan industrial produc-tion, weekly US chainstore sales sur-veys, US treasury auction of short-term bills, API weekly oil supply statistics.

**WEDNESDAY**  
Interims: Airtours (q1), Final: Allied Irish Banks, Mersey Docks, St Mod-wen Prop, Y&A, Woolwich Economic statistics: Buba awards report, US Jan PPI and housing starts, US Treasury 2-yr, 5-yr notes.

**THURSDAY**  
Interims: Bellwinch, Brown & Jack-son, Tor Investment, Final: BAE, Glaxo Wellcome, Provident Financial, Skillgroup, Economic statistics: UK Jan prov IVA and final MG, UK BSA Jan lending, UK BBA end-Jan bank lending, BOE MPC evidence on infla-tion report to Treasury Select Com-mittee, US Nov trade deficit, US weekly job-less claims report.

**FRIDAY**  
Interims: none scheduled, Final: Rank, Economic statistics: none scheduled.

SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: Buy Azlan, Photobition, Flying Flowers, Chesterfield Properties, The Sunday Telegraph: Buy Power-Cen, Ladbroke, Inn Business, The Mail on Sunday: Buy Lynx Holdings, The Express on Sun-day: Buy Wilmington, Riva, Sell Pentax Energy, The Ob-server: Buy GKN, Siebe, Weir Group, Sunday Business: Buy Kopernikus, Sakura Japan, GAM Diversity and All-Weather Exel hedge funds.

**GLAXO WELLCOME:** These could be the last set of full-year results reported by Britain's biggest drugs company before the proposed £100 billion merger with rival SmithKline Beecham, forming the second biggest company in the world.

Both companies have already made clear that the post results meeting will focus purely on the figures. They have no wish to talk further about the plan to merge.

However, these figures from Glaxo on Thursday will also perhaps highlight why Sir Richard Sykes, the chairman, is so eager to merge. According to Nigel Barnes at Merrill Lynch, the broker, they will show a downturn in pre-tax profits from £2.96 billion to £2.72 billion while earnings will drop from 56.7p a share to 52.6p.

Currency movements, especially those in Europe, are certain to depress the final outcome. But the real drag on profits will come from the expiry of patents in Zovirax, last April, and more importantly Zantac, its ulcer treatment which came off patent in July.

Sales of Zantac are expected to have dropped 30 per cent to £1.36 billion. At its peak, sales of the drug topped more than £2 billion a year. The dividend is expected to be 35.2p against 34p last time.

**SMITHKLINE BEECHAM:** Full-year figures tomorrow should produce a useful improvement backed up by its impressive portfolio of drugs. The two best performers from Jan Leschly, the chief executive's, stable will again come from Paxil/Seroxat, the anti-depressant, and Augmentin.

Nigel Barnes is looking for pre-tax profits of £1.65 billion compared with £1.54 billion last time. Earnings will show a modest improvement of 1p to 20p stiffed by an ongoing outflow to minority interests. Paxil/Seroxat continues to grab

market share in both Europe and the US. Sales are expected to be about £990 million, or 19 per cent of group sales. Augmentin will also generate £950 million of sales but there are signs of a slowdown in the growth rate.

**BARCLAYS BANK:** The recent announcement of a higher-than-expected trading loss at BZW equities, the investment banking operation sold last year to Credit Suisse First Boston for a mere £100 million, has sent analysts scurrying for their calculators. Many have cut their operating pre-tax profit forecasts to unchanged at £2.3 billion. But some like NatWest Markets have slashed their forecast to £1.84 billion with earnings a share down from 104.2 to 80.3p. Either way, substantial recurring charges are expected to render the final number meaningless.

The City will also be looking for a further swathe of share buy-backs following a £700 million repurchase programme in 1997. In the absence of a major acquisition, Martin Taylor, chief executive, could return up to £800 million to investors this year. However, the toppy share price — just under £20 — could prove a dampener.

**WOOLWICH:** With its shares at about 330p, the mortgage bank looks a mite over-valued, and many professional bank watchers have urged investors to sell. A wave of post-conversion redemptions is likely to take the shine off its pre-tax profits, which are expected to remain flat at about £400 million when reported on Wednesday.

However, the prospect of Woolwich returning some of its surplus capital to shareholders might persuade many investors, particularly former members, to hold on to their stock.

The bank has said it will present proposals for capital repatriation at its AGM on April 22. A takeover



Jan Leschly, of SB, and Sir Richard Sykes, of Glaxo, will want an easy delivery for their baby

remains a possibility, but any bid would have to be agreed as Woolwich has five years' protection from hostile predators. The payout is set to grow by 14 per cent from 7.9p to 9p.

**BRITISH AEROSPACE:** A sharp drop in losses at its commercial aircraft division will combine with another strong profits rise on the defence side to underpin a solid performance. NatWest Markets

the broker, is forecasting an in-crease in full-year profits on Thurs-day, of almost a third at £590 million. That compares with £456 million last time. Earnings are expected to grow from 74.3p to

# Glaxo sums show why merger is prescribed

96.9p. NatWest gives warning that defence margins may initially show signs of shrinkage despite double digit sales growth. The effect will have been created by the internal re-organisation designed to isolate the Airbus operations. This will have resulted in a £45 million shortfall in operating profits. After removing this effect margins actually appear stable. British Aerospace now sits on £6 billion in cash and has an order book worth more than £12 billion. Losses on the commercial air-craft side will have more than halved from £78 million to £26 million following the closure of Jetstream 41 production at the end of the first half. The payout is expected to grow 25 per cent to 19.5p.

**RANK ORGANISATION:** The key to any improved performance from the leisure group will depend on its capital expenditure pro-gramme. Unfortunately, it will probably be too early for full-year figures on Friday, to reflect the heavy expenditure being made on the holidays division and Hard Rock Café.

Pre-tax profits are expected to show a small downturn from £297 million to £293 million with earnings a share also showing a decline from 24.1p to 23.5p.

There has been a question mark raised over Hard Rock Café in recent weeks, after the profits warning from its main rival, Planet Hollywood. But its contribution to group profits is still expected to have grown by £1 million to £47 million.

At the half-way stage, the group raised the interim payout by 5 per cent and confirmed that second half trading had been in line with expectations. Therefore, brokers are unperturbed by suggestions that the final payout may be cut. Most of them are looking for a 1p increase to 18p.

## PSBR precedes sales figures as Bank falls under spotlight

The first economic focus of the week will be tomorrow's publication of January's public sector borrowing requirement. January is a big month for corporation tax receipts and the consensus view of the market, compiled by Standard & Poor's MMS, is for a repayment of borrowing or negative PSBR of £6.3 billion after a PSBR of £1.4 billion in December. On Wednesday, January retail sales figures are eagerly awaited for more comprehensive evidence of activity on the high street in the key post-Christmas sales period. MMS has a consensus forecast of a 0.9 per cent rise in volumes compared with flat sales in December. On Thursday, January M4 money supply and bank lending figures are published, but

the main focus of the day will be the appearance of the Governor of the Bank of England and as yet unnamed members of the Monetary Policy Committee before the Commons Treasury Committee. They will be asked to testify on the contents of last week's quarterly *Inflation Report* and also on the split in opinion that emerged in the minutes of the January MPC meeting. There are no British statistics on Friday, but the financial markets will be heavily focused on the scheduled unveiling of economic stimulus measures by the Japanese Government. This announcement is timed to pre-empt the

meeting on Saturday in London of Group of Seven finance ministers which is expected to centre on the Asian crisis, including the outlook for the world economy and the question of improving surveillance of the world monetary system. On Sunday, finance ministers are to be joined by employment and social affairs ministers for a jobs summit. Other potentially interesting economic news items include a speech by Wim Duisenberg, President of the European Monetary Institute, to a bankers' club in London today, the Bank of Japan's monthly economic report tomorrow and the presentation of Hong Kong's 1998-99 budget on Wednesday.

JANET BUSH

### Interplay of Bank's insiders and outside economists

From Professor J. H. Wood Sir, The votes of the outside economist members of the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee to raise interest rates in January with the preference of the Bank's resident staff for no change reported in your columns (February 12) is another, but not unusual, chapter in the long conflict between economists and central bankers. To

go back only a century, the Swedish economist Knut Wicksell and the American Irving Fisher, later joined by Sir Ralph Hawtrey, attributed much of the instability of prices to the tendency of banks, especially central banks, to adjust interest rates to economic conditions too little and too late, thereby prolonging aggregate excess demands and supplies. Econo-

mists' recommendations of frequent and significant changes in interest rates have been reinforced by econo-metric models that contin-uously grind out new optimal instrument values as new information becomes avail-able in a world in which the future is assumed to be calculable. One of the reasons that bankers, like others who bear the consequences of their deci-sions, frequently delay action is their awareness of uncer-tainty (a word used in this context in the February 12 Commentary of your City Editor). A rise in interest rates might not be unimportant to debtors, and it might not be a bad thing if the central bank were to deserve the accusation of concern for the condition of financial firms. Rather risk a little inflation than a credit crunch, and who knows what then? Perhaps better wait and see. Something, including more information, might turn up.

### Seeds of destruction sown in the headlong pursuit of profit

From Mr Mark Goyder Sir, Tony O'Reilly is right about shareholder value (February 5). There is no magic formula for its creation and continuation. Certainly no code of corporate governance will guarantee long-term success. Our conclusion from research into corporate success over decades links sustainable shareholder value to a certain style of leadership. Not the "hero as leader", but an approach that inspires and infects the whole organisation with goals that excite them and values with which they can identify. Investigations of fraud and corporate disaster tell the same story. In the absence of a clear framework of values a business can sow the seeds of its destruction when it chases headlong after financial results. That's why we need a new corporate governance agenda. Boards cannot second-guess

every entrepreneurial judg-ment. But they can ask to see measurement of success that extends beyond last year's financial results and includes assessments of customer loyal-ty, employee commitment, product innovation and public confidence. For it is in these awkward corners that the first signs of threat to shareholder value will be found. If the Hampel committee had done something to alert boards to this more inclusive approach to the measurement and questioning of a compa-ny's progress, then their conclusions would have been helpful to the 57 varieties of company that are all search-ing for shareholder value in their own way. Yours faithfully, MARK GOYDER, Centre for Tomorrow's Company, 19 Buckingham Street, WC2.

Further, unless the Bank is believed by the mar-kets to be resolute in a change, which probably would not have been the case in January, a very severe, possibly danger-ous, restriction of credit might be required. This point was made on several occasions by Lord Keynes. It will be inter-esting to see whether the preferred policies of the econo-mists and the permanent cen-tral bankers on the committee converge as they develop a shared experience. Yours sincerely, JOHN WOOD (Professor of Economics, Wake Forest University, US, Currently Visiting Fellow, Clare Hall, Cambridge. jhw30@hermes.cam.ac.uk)

Letters for publication in the *The Times Business* section may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5112 or by e-mail to: [letters@the-times.co.uk](mailto:letters@the-times.co.uk). Letters should carry a daytime phone number.

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FACTS

Market cap: £3 billion
Total revenue (1996): £4.3 billion
Pre-tax loss (96): £28 million, after exceptional charges of £263 million relating to the disposal of Parsons

THE BOARD

Sir Ralph Robins has been chairman since 1992, having joined Rolls-Royce in 1955. He was elected to the board in 1982 and became managing director in 1984.
John Rose, chief executive, was elected to the board in 1992, having joined the company in 1984. He had been managing director of the aerospace group before he was promoted to the top.

When the public hears the name Rolls-Royce, it thinks of motor cars. That is the cross that must be borne by Rolls-Royce plc, the aircraft-engine maker.

Rolls-Royce plc is the authentic Rolls-Royce company, inasmuch as it owns the brand. The carmaker is an entirely separate company, owned by Vickers, and "Rollers" use the name and bonnet badge under licence.

Commercially, the blurred identity of the two companies has benefited Rolls-Royce plc salespeople. The cars are status symbols worldwide. Recently, this ambiguity has created tension. Vickers is selling Rolls-Royce Motor Cars and has claimed that Rolls-Royce plc is using the licence to steer the carmaker into the hands of BMW, its joint-venture partner.

To understand the current spat, one needs a brief history of how the carmaker and the aero-engine maker grew up together. Rolls-Royce made its first aero engine in 1914, seven years after Charles Rolls and Henry Royce established a factory in Derby to make Silver Ghost cars, and four years after Charles Rolls's death in a plane crash.

Rolls-Royce's history of engineering excellence includes the Merlin engine, a staple of Battle of Britain planes such as the Spitfire. The Derwent powered the Meteor, the first jet aircraft in the UK, and Rolls-Royce engines made the Harrier the first vertical take-off fighter.

The business side of the business turned sour, though, and Rolls Royce Ltd went bankrupt in February 1971, a fact the company understandably omits from a potted history used for promotions.

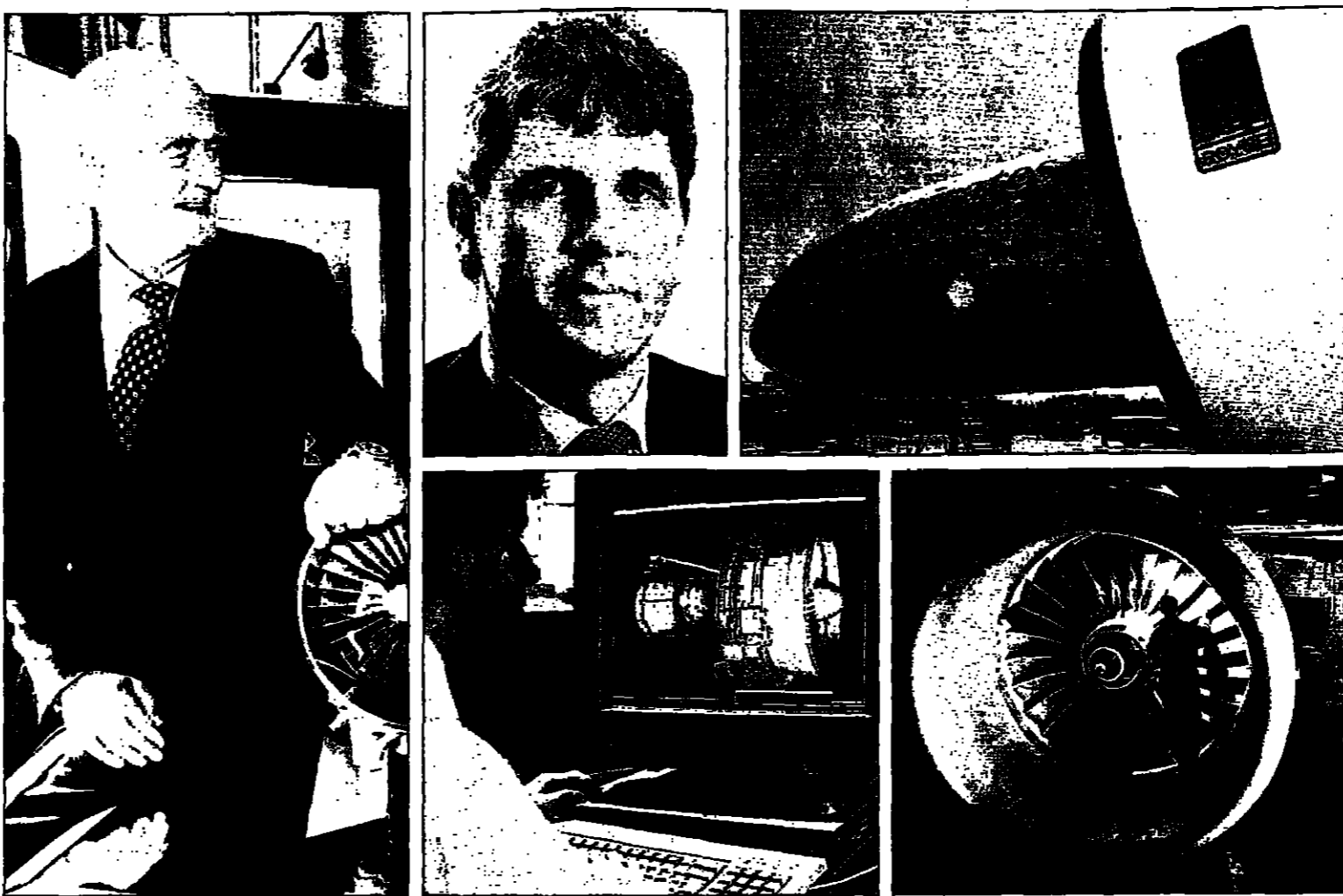
The main reason for the bankruptcy was a contract to develop and supply the RB211 engine to the Lockheed TriStar. It met technical difficulties, delays and cost overruns.

Receivers and the Government salvaged what they could. The profitable motor car assets were hived off into a separate company, which was floated and then bought by Vickers in 1980.

Rolls-Royce (1971), as the aerospace rump was known, came under state control before being returned to private ownership in 1987. Rolls-Royce plc, as it then became, bought Northern Engineering Industries (NEI) in 1989, expanding its existing activity in industrial power generation.

Two more deals gave Rolls-Royce its current shape. In 1995, it bought Allison Engine of the US. Then the Parsons turbine power generator busi-

CORPORATE PROFILE: Rolls-Royce



Sir Ralph Robins, left, chairman of Rolls-Royce; John Rose, chief executive; a Rolls-Royce engine on an Emirates aircraft; an engineer working on a Rolls-Royce Trent 800 engine for a Boeing 777; and the computer-aided design that has been integral to the Trent development programme

ness, part of the NEI portfolio, was sold off last March. Stripping out Parsons from the 1996 results, these deals meant that nearly three-quarters of the group's £4 billion continuing operations turnover came from aerospace, and the remainder from industrial power.

Like the rest of the aerospace industry, Rolls-Royce has been enjoying a boom in orders. A wave of replacement car assets were driving the market and Rolls has done particularly well in grabbing market share from US General Electric and Pratt & Whitney.

Rolls-Royce is now a major supplier to Airbus, the European aircraft-making consortium. It recently received a £200 million, risk-sharing loan from the Government to fund new variations on its big Trent engine for the new Airbus A340-type airliners.

Sir Ralph Robins, chairman, says that the group is repaying about £30 million a year of "launch aid" from

previous projects. As with British Aerospace, however, the total return to the Government is not disclosed.

For Boeing, Rolls-Royce again supplies engines to a broad range of aircraft. The boom in the cyclical aerospace industry has caused plenty of problems for Boeing, which shed too many staff in leaner times. Rolls-Royce had difficulty coping with the surge too, encountering milder bottlenecks as some suppliers proved unable to raise the pace sufficiently.

These problems are now over and the main engine plant in Derby has started 1998 with some impressively ambitious improvement targets. Assembly and testing of Trents currently takes 26 days. The aim is 15 by the end of the year.

Anxiety over the ability of Asian airlines to stick to their order timetables has affected most aerospace stocks. Sir Ralph believes that deferrals could actually benefit the industry by flattening out the cycle of boom and bust, leading to a "soft landing". Industry observers and rivals sometimes question whether Rolls has paid enough attention to profit margins in its recent order triumphs. Sir Ralph admits that engine sales do not drive profits, and says: "Frankly, the money is made on spare parts. The margins in aftermarket are significantly better than the margins in new equipment, but you have to sell the new equipment first."

Sir Ralph says that 30 per cent of Rolls-Royce sales are in the aftermarket; he will not say how much profit. Charterhouse Tilney, the stockbroker, reckons that the operating margins vary from the 5 to 10

per cent obtained on overhaul to the 25 to 30 per cent achieved on spares. With planes flying longer—the Tristar and RB211 that bankrupted the company are flying still—there is clearly good money to be made from services and spare parts, and recent joint ventures in the US and the Far East have pushed Rolls forward in this market.

Sir Ralph has set the group the target of 10 per cent earnings growth over the next five years. His own earnings—total remuneration was £730,000 in 1996—should start moving in the opposite direction, according to the Crisp Consulting corporate pay analysis. It says that he was paid more than twice as much as he should have been, and suggests £384,000 as a more appropriate figure. The non-execs, on the other hand, were underpaid by 4 per cent. Crisp says that there should be more of them and gives the company marks of 4/10 for fat cat quotient.

Integrity Works rated the group's "ethical expression" at 5/10, saying that its internal code of business conduct "has a legalistic tone and consists largely of a list of prohibitions". Arrangements for monitoring adherence were "fairly rudimentary", the consultancy said.

The sort of quantum leap made by the first jet engine is unlikely in the current market, which is all about cost and weight. Rolls engineers have small innovations that cannot yet be included on the Trent engines because of the extra cost to airlines. The bigger improvements are more likely to come from advances in materials science towards lighter, stronger metals.

There are costs that can be cut at the Derby plant—in the manufacture of the toughest turbine blades, for instance. This has some labour-intensive processes, such as quality control, and Rolls may ultimately make it cheaper by using smaller furnaces that would make casting more precise.

In the Trent and its unique three-shaft design, Rolls has an extremely flexible engine that can be scaled to cope with new planes as and when they are launched, reducing development costs to the envy of rivals.

Coming months, Rolls's exposure to Asia will continue to be monitored closely. There has already been one analyst's note arguing that its exposure is too high.

Close attention will also be paid to an intriguing High Court action started by a Panamanian company, Aerospace Engineering Design Corporation. It claims that Rolls-Royce has not paid the agreed middleman's commission on engine sales to the Royal Saudi Air Force. These were part of the Al Yamamah II sale. Rolls said that it will vigorously defend the allegation. In the unlikely event that it comes to court, the UK public will know an awful lot more about the workings of international arms deals.

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WHAT THE EXPERTS SAY

"In total, we estimate that some 31 per cent, by value, of the outstanding order book is accounted for by Asian customers. All of those orders are to customers who, with the exception of Singapore, would be considered candidates for deferral or cancellation, although again it is possible that other operators could take up their slots. The company's exposure to the region could have a material effect on profits." Give Forester-Walker, Henderson Criswell

"We are buyers because there are still a couple of strong years of recovery to come. There's evidence that the pricing of new engines is becoming less competitive. The only caveat is the exposure to the Far East, but if you get deals rather than cancellations it could actually flatten the cycle, which could make it easier for Rolls." Engineering team, Credit Suisse First Boston de Zoete

OUR VERDICT

Ethical expression... 5/10
Fat-cat quotient... 4/10
Financial record... 4/10
Share performance... 5/10
Attitude to employees... 8/10
Strength of brand... 10/10
Innovation... 9/10
Annual report... 5/10
City star rating... 5/10
Future prospects... 6/10
Total... 61/100
Ethical policy is evaluated by Integrity Works. The fat-cat quotient, in which best boardroom pay practice scores highest, is provided by Crisp Consulting.

TOURIST RATES

Table with columns for Bank, Buy, Sell and various countries like Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, USA.

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading on Friday.

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar 1.6365 (-0.0140)
German mark 2.9848 (+0.0245)
Exchange index 104.9 (+0.5)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 3446.2 (-6.3)
FTSE 100 5582.3 (-47.4)
New York Dow Jones 8370.10 (+180.61)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 16791.01 (-249.05)

WORD-WATCHING

MAXWELL'S DEMON

(a) An imaginary being postulated by James Clerk Maxwell. The demon, situated by a hole in a partition between two boxes, would allow only fast molecules through in one direction and slow ones in the other. So one box would heat up and the other cool. This would be contrary to the Second Law of Thermodynamics.

MAIOLI

(b) A Laifunised corruption of the name of Thomas Mahieu, secretary to Catherine de Medici and a great French book-collector. The name is used to designate a French style of book-binding with elaborate gold tooling, used for some of the books in his library.

ESCAPEMENT

(c) The escapee mechanism linking the vibrator (pendulum or hair/balance spring) with the drive (weights or mainspring) to produce regulated movements of the hands. Harrison (circa 1746) used a bimetallic strip independent of temperature change. It produced a chronometer accurate enough for navigation.

MAGNETO

(d) A generator, usually coupled with an interrupter to produce a spark for ignition in internal combustion engines. These are independent of a battery. The magneto was superseded in cars by a coil, which needed a battery, but gave a much faster spark at low speed; ie, good for starting.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1... Nh3+2 Qxh3 (2 Bxh3 Qx2-mates) 2... Qx2-3 Kh1 Qe1+4 Bf1 Qxb1 and Black wins

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سكوا من الأصل

# Institutions plan court showdown over Astec

By MARTIN BARROW

SIX leading institutions are expected to ask the High Court this week to block Emerson Electric's controversial attempt to remove three directors of Astec (BSR) and then to cut future dividends.

Equitable Life, Clerical & Medical, British Steel Pension Fund and Credit Suisse Asset Management have joined Royal & Sun Alliance and Electra Fleming, forming a bloc owning 13 per cent of electronics firm Astec. A further six big investors have agreed to share the expenses of the court action on behalf of minority shareholders.

They argue that Emerson's actions contravene section 459 of the Companies' Act, which deals with unfair prejudice, where one shareholder is deemed to disadvantage another. The institutions contend that Emerson's actions, if allowed to proceed, will seriously undermine the rights of other shareholders in London.

Emerson, a \$16 billion (£9.75 billion) US company, has angered institutions with its attempt to gain full control of Astec. It already owns 31.1 per cent and has said it is considering offering 11% a share for the outstanding equity. Analysts say the proposed terms undervalue the business. Salomon Smith Barney has valued the company at around 175p a share, against

Friday's closing price of 120p. Astec's current market value is £374 million.

Emerson has requisitioned an extraordinary meeting in London on March 9, seeking the removal of Mike Arrowsmith, finance director; Neal Stewart, who co-founded Astec in Hong Kong in 1971, and Michael Smith. Each would be replaced by an Emerson nominee.

The egot will go ahead, whatever the outcome this week in the High Court. The resolutions are certain to be approved, although the board changes could be delayed by the legal action.

The scale of opposition in the City is believed to have surprised Emerson, which is under pressure to put an end to the legal wrangle by making a higher offer.

Astec directors who oppose Emerson are likely to seek meetings with US institutions who hold Astec shares. These include Prudential of the US, Merrill Lynch, PNB and Morgan Guaranty. Although their combined holding of around 1.4 million shares is small, they could prove influential.

Emerson acquired a 45 per cent interest in Astec in 1989 when the companies merged interests in electronic components. It gained more than 50 per cent in March 1997.



On course for Ofex: Sir Robin Knox-Johnston, the yachtsman, intends to raise £1 million towards his round-the-world yacht race on the unregulated Ofex market. Clipper Ventures, which organises and promotes the biennial Clipper race, is run by Sir Robin, left, and William Ward, who wants the money to organise events in non-race years

# Cidermakers' woes are more than just a tale of Two Dogs alcopops

Martin Waller looks at why shares in the apple-crushers have dived

Five years ago, it was going to be the drink that would save the day for various small companies being squeezed out of the market by the mighty brewers. The time when cider was associated with yokels with straw in their hair was long gone; cider was young, it was cool, it was happening — and it had a built-in tax advantage over the bottled lagers that were the rage.

Over the past ten days, by contrast, two out of the three quoted cider producers have had to admit that bid talks have broken down because, quite simply, no one was interested in buying them even at their current shrunken market valuations.

Merrydown, whose shares traded at more than £4 at the start of the decade, ended Friday at 47½p, valuing the company at little more than £4 million.

Matthew Clark, just ahead of £8 a share in its 1996 heyday, were quoted at 194p on Friday night, giving a market capitalisation of about £170 million.

Merrydown will now be forced to raise fresh capital; Matthew Clark, which has other interests in wine shipping and bottled water, has been spurned by the third cidermaker, and the one the market regards as the most successful, HP Bulmer.

Bulmer itself has seen its shares fall to their lowest level since 1993, after a 14 per cent fall in pre-tax profits announced in December. With the shares at 363½p, the company is valued at about £190 million.

There is a widespread belief that the spurned companies' misfortunes are all down to the threat from alcopops, or alcoholic fruit mixtures, and that recovery is inevitable once this fad has passed. Matthew Clark's premium cider brands, which include Diamond White, K and Blackthorn, were certainly competing with those moodish drinks for the younger drinker's pocket money.

Charles Winston, drinks analyst with HSBC James Capel, the broker, says: "The market has only fallen to about 1994 levels by volume. It's not as if the consumers have suddenly run away from cider and they are not drinking it. The decline is nothing like as catastrophic as the share prices might suggest."

Alcopops may be falling in popularity, he says, but these

not think that rosy times are back for all the cidermakers. He is particularly concerned about whether the money being put into marketing the premium bottled ciders will pay off in terms of higher sales, because the indications are that all the growth is now in the draught market.

This would be good news for HP Bulmer, which has three strong draught brands, Woodpecker, Strongbow and Scrumpy Jack. However, it would suggest that Matthew Clark, which is shifting its marketing emphasis from draught brands such as Olde English and Red Rock to just the one, Blackthorn, could suffer.

Both companies have responded to the situation the same way, by pumping millions of pounds into marketing. Between them, they budgeted a total of £17 million for advertising last year, an option not open to the much smaller Merrydown.

Robert MacNevin, marketing director of Matthew Clark, says that the switch to co-branding on Blackthorn is now largely complete, and it is his company's policy to focus on the one strong brand. "The cider market in certain areas is beginning to pick up," he says. "Draught sales are up by 2 or 3 per cent year on year, even if the off-trade is still slipping. Premium bottled cider sold in pubs is down by 15 per cent."



Cider's yokel image is gone

have been replaced in young drinkers' affections by mixer drinks based on well-known brands of spirits.

Cider was hit initially both by alcopops and by the spread of nitro-keg ales such as Caffreys, made by Bass, and Killarney, a Guinness brand. Alcopops hurt sales of premium bottled ciders; to make things worse the brewers, which are not in the apple-crushing business, replaced draught cider dispensers with their own nitro-keg taps in the pubs that they controlled.

Meanwhile, beer-drinking Kenneth Clarke, then Chancellor, hacked away in his November 1995 Budget at the inbuilt tax advantage that had meant that cider was undervalued by comparison with lager or beer. He put 8p extra duty onto every pint.

"The speed of growth of nitro-keg is slowing rapidly, and may even be in mild decline already," says Mr Winston. However, he still does

believe that there is still plenty of market share to go for, because cider still runs at only 6 to 7 per cent of beer consumption.

Both men agree, though, that the worst of the threat from alcopops is over, and that the mid-1990s passion for flavoured alcoholic fruit juices will come to be seen as a temporary aberration.

The damage to alcopops may, paradoxically, have been done by the perception, hotly denied by their producers, that they are attractive to under-age drinkers. Mr MacNevin says: "The 18 to 24 age group," he says, "don't want to be associated with drinks that they think their kid brother or sister may be drinking."

# SBC named top research house

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

THE controversy over staff selection at the Union Bank of Switzerland and SBC Warburg Dillon Read after their merger announcement has been fuelled by a new ranking, which sees SBC analysts come out on top.

US magazine *Institutional Investor* has named SBC Warburg the best research house in Europe. UBS, which ranked second last year, was beaten into third place by Merrill Lynch, the top-rated Wall Street research house.

Senior bankers at the newly merged Swiss banking group are said to be ditching UBS analysts, some of whom are more highly rated than their Warburg counterparts, to eliminate UBS's "star culture". A total of 3,000 UK redundancies are expected.

The magazine said: "SBC Warburg tops the ranking, Merrill Lynch unseats UBS this year, capturing second place. The December announcement that UBS and SBC are combining to form the world's second-largest bank sent a harsh message to Europe's research departments: even record profits do not guarantee job security. The survivors, assuming the firm retains its all-stars, will constitute a power house. Tallying the places earned by SBC and UBS gives the combined firm almost twice the number of positions as Merrill."

The rankings were supplied by 73 London bankers.

## TOP TEN

- 1 SBC Warburg
- 2 Merrill Lynch
- 3 UBS
- 4 NatWest Securities
- 5 Goldman Sachs
- 6 BZW
- 7 Dresdner Kleinwort Benson
- 8 ABN Amro Hoare
- 9 Deutsche Morgan Grenfell
- 10 HSBC James Capel

# D&T calls for simpler tartan tax

By CAROLINE MERRILL

DELOITTE & TOUCHE, the chartered accountant, is calling on the Government to simplify the "tartan tax test".

This test would force taxpayers who spend significant time in Scotland to keep on-going records of their whereabouts. Deloitte's plea comes as clauses in the Scotland Bill concerning tax-varying powers are set to be debated.

By April 2000 the Scottish parliament could vary the basic rate of tax by up to 3p.

"Government has proposed two tests to determine whether someone is a Scottish taxpayer. Under current proposals a person resident in the UK who has his principal home in Scotland or spends as many days there as elsewhere in the UK is defined as a Scottish taxpayer," said David Sinton, tax partner.

"This test is complex and costly." He suggested a tax based simply on the location of the principal home.

# Property declines in owner absence

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS EDITOR

SOME prime London properties are falling into disrepair because their foreign leaseholders are not paying service charges or even ground rents, according to a survey from Credit Suisse Private Banking.

In areas such as Knightsbridge and Belgravia, foreign ownership is estimated to have reached up to 45 per cent, mostly to rent. Although this has boosted values, a minority of foreign landlords, many of whom are impossible to locate, are increasingly failing to pay up, delaying renovations and repairs indefinitely.

The London property market is suffering from a sharp downturn in interest from Far Eastern clients.

The survey, which was carried out among 50 estate agents and managing agents in the London area, found that 72 per cent believed that the decline in Far Eastern buyers would result in a drop in prices for new property developments this year, perhaps by as much as 15 per cent. More than 60 per cent of central London estate agents said that they had seen a significant downturn in interest in the residential property market from Far Eastern investors, and 75 per cent of these believe that this is directly due to the problems in that region.

On the positive side, 60 per cent of estate agents said that there had been a significant increase in demand for residential property in London from American companies and individuals and 22 per cent reported rising interest from South Africans.

The survey suggests there is a growing shortage of properties valued at more than £1 million in London at a time of escalating demand, and that this is driving prices higher.

City bonuses, rather than National Lottery winnings, are cited as fuelling growth in this price bracket.

# Deadline looms in ethics competition

THE deadline is nearing for this year's *The Times*/NatWest business ethics competition. Students who wish to claim the £3,000 prize need to answer the question of how they would cope with a dilemma that may cause seasoned business leaders to cry for help.

Entrants must imagine that they are the head of a multinational company that has been creating jobs and prosperity in a developing country. The Government there has been ejected in a military coup — and power now lies in the hands of dictators who care little about human rights.

The company chief is not in any direct danger — as a cash-rich capitalist, he is not someone the regime wants to wipe out. However, people back home are shocked by the violent character of the new regime and are demanding that the company take some kind of action.

What to do? To pull out of the country would mean putting all the employees out of work, and maybe reducing them to starvation. Financial considerations might suggest stripping assets out of the country to Swiss bank accounts and refusing further investment until the new rulers restore democracy — but playing hardball with a military dictatorship can have nasty side-effects.

Meanwhile, protesters are boycotting the company's products and the situation is spiralling towards a public relations nightmare. What is the way out?

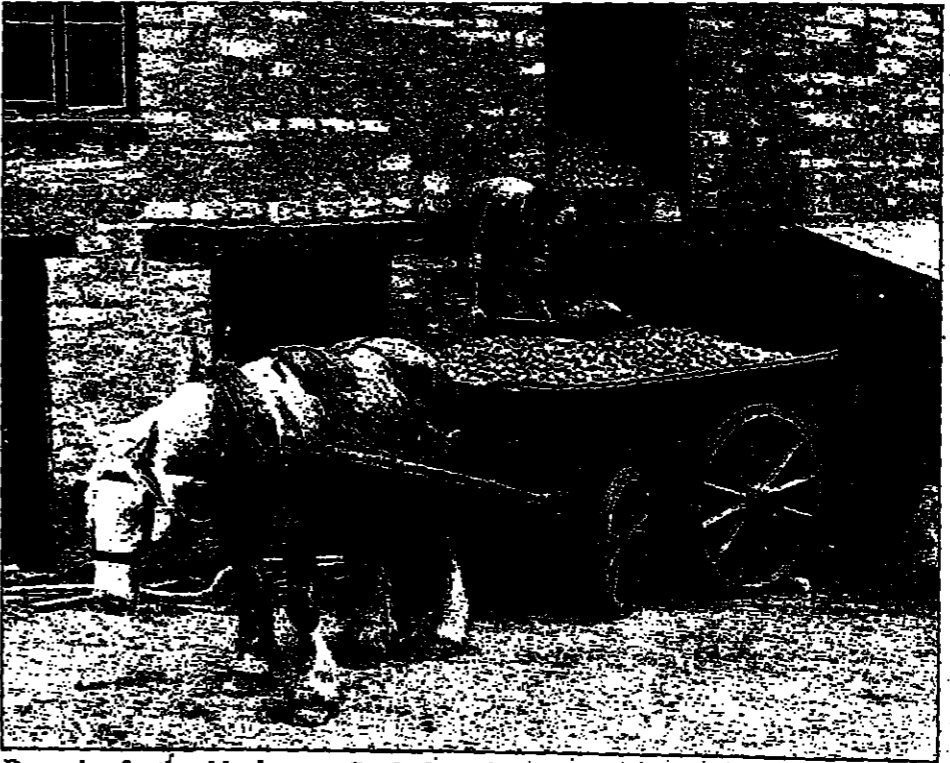
Entrants do not need to be studying business to think of a solution. No technical knowledge is required — all it takes is a few hours' thought and an essay of up to 1,000 words.

Authors of the six best-argued entries will be invited to discuss their solution with a panel of judges — including John Monks, General Secretary of the Trades Union Congress, Derek Wanless, chief executive of NatWest, and Patience Wheatcroft, business editor of *The Times*.

Last year's winner, Owain Evans, won £3,000 for his university and the same amount for himself — and he is now finishing his degree. The second prize is £2,000 and the third prize is £1,000.

The year before, Chris Ayres, then a politics student at Hull University, came in the top six and so progressed to the interview stage of the competition. He collected the top prize, went on to win a place studying journalism at the City University and is now a business reporter on *The Times*.

If you feel equal to the challenge, or know someone who may be, now is the time to act. Entry forms can be found in NatWest branches and essays must be sent to Room 217, 41 Lothbury, London, EC2P 2BP, before February 27.



Preparing for the cider brew at Castle Cary, Somerset, in 1936 — long before alcopops

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# Asia lo global

# India set to p 10m in UK

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For anyone who lived through the 1970s, the price of oil is something of enormous economic significance, etched deep in the memory by the two oil crises which nearly brought the western economies to their knees. All the more remarkable then that, outside professional circles, the recent sharp falls in oil prices should have occasioned barely a comment. The reason speaks volumes about the nature of the modern economy.

The price of oil is currently about \$14 a barrel, down from last year's peak of \$29. November's decision by Opec, the producers' cartel, to increase production quotas was critical, but the effect has been compounded by weaker demand from Asia following the region's economic crisis, and by warm winter weather in the northern hemisphere. Remarkably, recent tensions in the Middle East, far from strengthening the price, may even have weakened it, as the markets have speculated on

## Pouring oil on troubled economic waters

the prospects for increases in the permitted level of Iraqi oil exports. An oil glut is a serious prospect.

What a turnaround from the 1970s. The oil price rise of 1974 was one of those defining economic events, like the collapse of communism or the East Asian crisis, which economists fail to see or analyse in advance but then manage to turn into the foundation of a major research industry afterwards. It broke on the world like a fresh, all-engulfing wave. Unthought of before, nothing was quite the same afterwards. In the scope and reach of its economic impact, it was akin to the effects of a major war.

Up to that point, the price of oil had been below \$5 a barrel for more than a hundred years, and immediately before the crisis broke, it had been trading at \$3. Afterwards, it hit \$13, an increase



ROGER BOOTLE

of more than 300 per cent. This followed large rises in other commodity prices and strong demand pressures. Throughout the West, inflation soared. At one point, the annual increase in British producers' input costs (which is now running at minus 9.7 per cent) was 70 per cent. Consumers faced steep rises in all prices including, of course, petrol at the pump, and there was widespread talk of a return to wartime-style petrol rationing. RPI inflation peaked at nearly 27 per cent in 1975. Meanwhile, the financial markets underwent a huge expansion as vast amounts of petrodollars had to be recycled from the newly enriched Middle-Eastern oil producers to the countries struggling to pay for their oil imports.

Policy-makers in most Western countries chose to accommodate

the price rises in order to minimise the adverse effects on employment, but they ended up with more of both unemployment and inflation. This was the age of stagflation. By hook or by crook, though, they managed to ease inflation down from the peaks. Then in 1979, it happened all over again. Oil, which had been trading just below \$13, shot up to a peak of \$36, an increase of some 200 per cent. In terms of today's money, that price represents over \$80 a barrel. Inflation also took off again, but now, across the world, central bankers and governments cried "enough". Interest rates were raised to whatever level was necessary to reduce inflation, at whatever cost to unemployment. Sado-monetarism was born.

There was another brief flurry during the Gulf War, when oil prices doubled, reaching \$34 at the peak, but on the whole the trend since 1980 has been downwards. In money terms, at \$14 a barrel, the price is now back where it was before the 1979 price rise. But if you adjust for inflation, the price is nearly back to its pre-1974 crisis level.

So why is there no rejoicing? One reason can be quickly laid to

rest. You might think that as an oil producer, Britain's interests are now aligned with Opec's, and that we are net losers from a lower oil price, not least because this will lead to lower tax receipts from North Sea Oil. But this completely misconstrues our position. We are also large consumers of oil. Our net export position is now small — only about £5 billion a year. True, this still means that the direct losses for producers outweigh the gains for consumers. But there are indirect gains, not least the reduction in inflation and the improvements in the economic environment in our major export markets in Europe. As for tax revenues from oil production, these now amount to only £4 billion, or 1/2 per cent of GDP.

A stronger reason is that the recent fall in oil prices has been gradual, in contrast to the sudden

shocks of 1974 and 1979. Also, the fall is not yet believed to be permanent, and it has not yet had much effect on the price of petrol at the pumps, which is still some 5 per cent higher than it was year ago, largely due to increases in duty. Indeed, there will be further duty rises after the Budget.

But there is a deeper answer. Like coal and corn before it, oil is simply not as important to the Western economies as it was. Energy conservation is only part of the story, for we still consume more oil than we used to. The real reason is that the expansion of services, and particularly the more recent explosion in information-based activity, which is a major source of recent economic growth, uses very little energy in relation to value-added. There can be no stronger testament to the revolutionary nature of the changes sweeping through our economy than our apparent insouciance at the undoing of what caused us so much misery not so very long ago.

## Asia looms large at global finance talks

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS EDITOR

THE Asian crisis will dominate the thinking of finance ministers and the world's top central bankers this week as they set the agendas both at today's meeting of European Finance Ministers and a conclave of the Group of Seven industrialised nations on Saturday.

Today's Ecofin meeting in Brussels will be attended by Michel Camdessus, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, at the invitation of Gordon Brown, the Chancellor. During the UK presidency of the European Union, Mr Brown is also President of Ecofin.

The presence of the IMF chief will help to focus discussions on the lessons the international community can draw from events in Asia. The debate will then continue in a broader context when the G7 gathers on Saturday.

Mr Brown's suggestion that Mr Camdessus attend Ecofin came in a letter in January in which the Chancellor offered ideas "to help prevent such crises recurring and to reflect on whether we could improve our techniques for handling crises when they occur."

One of the Chancellor's most interesting points is that the IMF itself should consider being more transparent in its dealings with member countries. He acknowledged the sometimes necessary confidentiality of policy dialogue with members but added: "I believe there are ways in which the Fund could and should begin to make its concerns known in public, certainly when policy advice has been given over a period and not acted on."

This is a view endorsed in *The Times* today by David Folkerts-Landau, former head

of capital markets surveillance at the Fund (see page 46).

Mr Brown also urged Mr Camdessus to examine doing more to promote transparency in all countries about the operation of economic policy and the operations of financial institutions. He urged the IMF quickly to bring forward proposals for a code of conduct on transparency in fiscal policy as well as consider a widening of the IMF's articles to cover capital account issues. Another major strand of Saturday's G7 discussion on the outlook for the world economy will be Japan's plans for extra stimulus to the economy.

Japan is due to announce an economic package on Friday, timed to pre-empt growing unease among its G7 partners about Japan's ability to push through remedial policy changes fast enough.

Lawrence Summers, Depu-

ty US Treasury Secretary, derided Japanese efforts so far as "virtual policy" and said that "substantial, early additional fiscal action is critically important, not just for Japan, but for the region as a whole."

Eisuke Sakakibara, Japan's vice finance minister for international affairs, meets Mr Summers in Washington tomorrow en route to the G7. He told Japanese TV yesterday that Japan had made the necessary policy changes but the message had not yet fully reached foreign governments.

Friday's policy package is thought likely to include the front-loading of public works and some deregulation measures but large-scale fiscal stimulus plans are not expected until after the 1998 Budget passes through parliament in mid-April.

Trials and errors, page 46



Professor David Lane of Cyclacel says a cure for cancer may be just a decade away

## Cyclacel leads the way in remedy for cancer

By PAUL DURMAN

"ONE does not always have the chance in one's career to work with someone who has 'Nobel prize' written all over his face," says Spiro Rombotis.

This ear-catching remark is the explanation Mr Rombotis gives when asked why he wanted to become chief executive of Cyclacel, a start-up company based around the discoveries of Professor David Lane, a cancer expert at the University of Dundee. Professor Lane, a seemingly modest man, is clearly used to praise since discovering the gene responsible for the growth of 60 per cent of common cancers.

The p53 gene, first identified in 1978, is said to be the world's most researched gene. Professor Lane suggests that it holds the key to a cure for cancer being found in the next ten years.

Already well decorated by his academic peers, Professor Lane will next month be one of three scientists to receive the prize awarded by the Paul Ehrlich Foundation, a German body named after a leading figure in chemotherapy and cell chemistry at the turn of the century. The Foundation prides itself on its record of honouring future Nobel laureates.

Professor Lane is now spending half his time on

Cyclacel, which is seeking to develop cancer therapies based on his work for the Cancer Research Campaign in Dundee. Cyclacel was the first investment for Merlin Ventures, the biotechnology investment firm headed by Chris Evans, who has made more money from biotech than just about anyone in Britain.

Dr Evans, who calls himself a "financial scientist entrepreneur type", seems to have hit it off with Professor Lane from the moment they met in September 1996. Aside from reputation, Dr Evans said he was attracted to working with Professor Lane because he was not a "jumped-up arrogant academic". For his part, Professor Lane says he was excited by Dr Evans' can-do approach and for finding simple ways of expressing complex biological mechanisms. Merlin invested £2.5 million.

Working with the p53 gene is complicated because the gene has numerous mutations — one of the reasons why the importance of its discovery was not appreciated for several years. Cyclacel is taking a lateral approach, and is working with synthetic protein fragments, or peptides, that play a similar role in tumour suppression.

Professor Lane is excited by

the possibility of isolating the active portion of the protein, thus improving the chances of creating a drug able to penetrate cell walls.

This more scientifically interesting peptide-based approach is also fraught with potential pitfalls. It is still a long way from producing a drug that can be tested on humans. Cyclacel is therefore carrying out random screening of smaller molecules in the hope of finding potentially useful compounds that mimic the behaviour of tumour suppressor genes.

Mr Rombotis says the firm is using its biological know-how to take a more rational approach to the discovery process. It is also looking around to license other novel anti-cancer agents. These initiatives offer an earlier opportunity for it to start the human trials of a drug that are the real measure of any biotech company's worth.

Professor Lane readily acknowledges the need for Cyclacel to balance the risks involved in its peptide programme.

Cyclacel eventually wants to float on the stock market, but Mr Rombotis said it will need another one or two rounds of private financing before it will be ready to consider such a step.

## Treasury expected to reappoint George

The Treasury is widely expected this week to announce the re-appointment of Eddie George as Governor of the Bank of England after weeks of speculation about why the Chancellor has taken so long to reach a decision. Mr George is back in London today after visiting South Africa.

The Treasury also has to announce new appointments to the Court of the Bank of England by February 28.

Under the new arrangements laid out in the new Bank of England Bill, four executive directors are to be replaced with non-executive directors.

In addition, three non-executive contracts are due to expire at the end of this month. There has been some speculation that the Governor's appointment may be announced along with the Court appointments.

## Christie's may issue statement

Christie's International, the auctioneers, may be forced to issue a statement in the wake of continuing speculation that takeover talks with SBC Warburg Dillon Read, the investment bank, have stalled. Weekend reports claimed that the £500 million offer would be formally called off this week.

Delays in tabling a formal bid have led to suggestions that SBC Warburg has struggled to persuade wealthy private investors to participate in a bid. However, sources close to the bank said yesterday: "Things are still progressing, and relations between the two sides remain good. Nothing has changed."

## Philippine peso faces pressure

The Philippine peso could come under further pressure after the International Monetary Fund described the Philippine Government's revenue target for this fiscal year as too optimistic.

IMF officials are understood to have urged the Government to revise downwards its income projections to "more realistic" levels amid a slowdown in business. IMF officials were presented with a tax collection estimate for this year of 527 billion pesos (£7.8 billion).

## Pakistan find

Prospectors have struck a big gas reserve — estimated at 38 billion cubic feet of gas — in Pakistan's southern Sindh province for the second time this month, officials said yesterday. The two discoveries will substantially reduce Pakistan's import bill and ease a domestic shortage of gas.

## SK to shrink

One of South Korea's top five "chaebol" business groups is to shrink its network of subsidiaries from 43 to ten. SK Group will slim down through a series of mergers and takeovers.

## Honda set to put £400m in UK site

By DOMINIC WALSH

HONDA is poised to deliver a vote of confidence in the UK by announcing plans to produce a new small car at its factory at Swindon, Wiltshire. Observers believe that the Japanese carmaker is planning to invest £400 million in the project, creating up to 700 jobs.

The announcement would provide a timely boost to the British car industry. Toyota recently decided to site a new £400 million small car factory in France, rather than at its existing UK plant at Burnaston, Derbyshire. The announcement will also allay fears over the future of Asian investment here in the wake of the economic crisis in the Far East and Britain's decision not to submerge the pound into the euro at the first opportunity.

Honda, whose Swindon factory already makes the Civic

and the Accord, has been looking for a third model to boost production there. According to a recent study by the Economist Intelligence Unit, the factory's 2,000-plus workforce is the third most efficient in Europe, turning out 64.2 cars per employee per year.

Reports suggest that its new model, which would compete with Ford's Ka and the Fiat Uno, will be unveiled at next month's Geneva motor show. The car, designed to appeal to a younger market than the Civic, is expected to be a revamped version of the Honda Logo, which is made for the Japanese market.

Honda has only about half the shares of the European market held by Toyota and Nissan. This is, in part, because Honda co-operated with Rover before BMW intervened.

## Pregnant pause still precarious

By OUR CITY STAFF

MATERNITY leave must now be provided by law in 120 countries, the International Labour Organisation reports, greatly improving working standards for women. But pregnant women still face the threat of losing their job or having their earnings stopped.

The United States, Australia and New Zealand are the only industrialised countries without legislated paid leave for would-be mothers, an ILO study *Maternity Protection at Work* says.

The Czech Republic has the most generous maternity laws, allowing pregnant women 28 weeks off, followed by Hungary with 24 weeks and Italy and Canada with 17 weeks. Eastern European countries have cut back on previously extensive maternity benefits, in particular cash

benefits, due to economic restructuring, the report says.

The ILO standard calls for a minimum 12-week leave and 31 countries guarantee less than that period.

In countries which provide cash benefits through social security, the ILO says a woman should receive not less than two-thirds of her salary with full health benefits.

To qualify for paid leave, women normally must have worked for a minimum amount of time.

"The situation of workers who become pregnant shortly after beginning a new job is often precarious," the ILO warned.

The ILO said women need legal guarantees that they will not lose their jobs after childbirth and in the period after returning to work.

## US groups to rival CMC in pursuit of vulnerable borrowers

## Fears rise of new lending scandal

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

FEARS that vulnerable borrowers could be dragged into another lending scandal are growing as US lenders rush to take the place of City Mortgage Corporation, the controversial lender hit by tough action by the Office of Fair Trading last week.

CMC's US parent, Cityscape Financial Corporation, last week said that the OFT action — which banned CMC from using punitive interest rates and stiff early redemption penalties — had seriously damaged its financial state. Cityscape had to write off \$185 million (£13 million) from the value of CMC's business.

Meanwhile, the OFT, which has campaigned to protect so-called "non-status" borrowers — people whose poor credit

histories or erratic incomes bar them from getting loans from banks and building societies — is investigating complaints against CMC and could still strip it of its consumer credit licence.

This will cheer the six US-linked non-status lenders that have been far less aggressive than CMC towards borrowers. Firms such as Kensington Mortgage Company, set up by Marty Feingold, a former Goldman Sachs banker in 1994, and Preferred Mortgages, a joint venture between IMC of the US and the Roth Property Group, have been joined by more overtly American lenders such as Southern Pacific, First Alliance and the Money Store. They believe that the UK non-status market is untapped and could grow to be 10 per cent of conventional

lending, and have preferred to profit from the higher interest they can charge borrowers without upsetting the OFT. Non-status loans tend to be 3 to 6 per cent over Libor, the inter-bank lending rate.

Such wide margins and the UK's lack of controls over lenders are attracting more interest from the US, where the non-status market is well developed and competition is fierce. Residential Funding Corporation, part of GMAC, the finance subsidiary of General Motors and Ames, one of the largest US specialist lenders, have plans to expand in the UK. More lenders are thought to be on their way. Mortgage brokers expect the influx to provoke a fightback by high street lenders, who have been relaxing their attitude to borrowers with debts.

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# The trials and errors of the man from the IMF

### Guard who should have spotted the meltdown talks to Janet Bush

There can be few people with a keener insight into the tumult in Asia and the International Monetary Fund's handling of it than David Folkerts-Landau. Last October, when Asia was already in the early stages of what developed into full-blown financial meltdown, he left the IMF, after 15 years, and joined Deutsche Morgan Grenfell as head of its growing emerging markets team.



David Folkerts-Landau concedes that the IMF failed to understand how Asia's troubled banks would lead to ruin

At the IMF, he was head of capital markets surveillance and therefore responsible for trying to identify financial market problems early on. So how well did he do his job? Delivering his own end of term report in an interview with *The Times* he was refreshingly frank: "The state of knowledge that we had as economists inside the Fund was not such that we could see this coming. We didn't. So mea culpa."

We approach these problems with a macroeconomic mindset. We look at a country that has almost no fiscal deficit, that has a very modest current account deficit, that has investment rates of 30 per cent of GDP: just a dream," he said. "We thought that these countries had structural problems and that we had to push them in the right direction. But what we didn't see was that there was a huge hole in their financial system. In a nutshell, we failed to understand the relation between the hole in the financial sector and the macroeconomy. If we had, we would have rung alarm bells, but we didn't."

The other serious charge is that the IMF bailed out Asia at all, spending money on rescuing bad lending instead of punishing them. Mr Folkerts-Landau acknowledges the moral hazard problem. He noted that much of the

bank lending to Asia came after the Mexican crisis. "It was like people said 'Let's all go in together and we will all be bailed out together.'" He admits that, in Asia's case, bank lenders had not been forced to experience enough pain but believes that the IMF had little choice but to mobilise billions of dollars of rescue money. In the case of South Korea, strategic considerations meant that Seoul had to be bailed out. In Thailand, events were moving at unbelievable speed. "Things had to be done in 48 hours because there were queues forming outside the banks," he said. "We had to go in with a programme and give them the money despite knowing that we were bailing out the wrong people."

Mr Folkerts-Landau has trenchant views on reforming the Fund's management of the world financial system. "There are two models of surveillance. The Fund can be a trusted adviser standing behind the emperor whispering in his ear, knowing everything, saying nothing but giving good advice. The other model is one which I would call in-your-face confrontational surveillance. I will stand right in front of you and I will tell you, in public, that you are doing something wrong."

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## Life on the Longleat estate

**Lion Country**  
BBC1, 3.00pm (not Scotland)  
The startling thing about this daytime documentary is that it is scheduled to run five days a week for 11 weeks, making a total of 55 episodes. The makers of the series are obviously confident that their subject, the Longleat estate, will not leave them short of material. This comes from three main elements: the safari park, the village of Horningsham which lies on the estate, and the colourful landowner, the 7th Marquess of Bath. All three help the project off to a promising, if unspectacular, start. Roemie, one of the lions, needs an operation and has to be sedated. Horningsham holds a reunion of villagers and Lord Bath, who likes to wear his hair long and to pad around in bare feet, celebrates his 65th birthday. Paul Heiney is our host for what promises to be an amiable, undemanding and low-key series.



Lord Bath at Longleat (BBC1, 3.00pm)

**Ainsley's Meals in Minutes**  
BBC2, 8.30pm  
Here is yet another cookery show in which the cookery is almost incidental. With the all-singing, all-dancing Ainsley Harriot in charge it could hardly be otherwise. Should Jim Davidson ever relinquish *The Generation Game* or Noel his *House Party*, Ainsley would be the natural replacement. The ostensible aim of the series is to demonstrate dishes which busy people can knock up quickly. Or, in Ainsley's unctuous phrase, it is about "fantastic food in a flash". Tonight the studio guests are an actor-manager from Birmingham who gets spiced duckling with red cabbage (25 minutes to prepare), a single mother and her young daughters who are offered golden tuna fish triangles (20 minutes) and new-style tempter with Canton stir-fry beef and noodles (a mere five minutes).

the remotest bit alike. You would not think the world could provide such a rich crop of would-be disasters. A parachute fails to open, the cable snaps during a bungee jump and an avalanche threatens to engulf tourists in the Italian Alps. Not to mention a speedboat veering out of control and a helicopter rescue going, as they say, pear-shaped. But the doziest is the rescue of a cockatoo. The bird is stuck on a ledge of a building seven storeys up and its owner, who has no head for heights, is forced to abseil to its rescue.

**Great Escapes**  
ITV, 8.30pm  
More death-defying incidents, filmed as they happened, are introduced by the racing driver Martin Brundle. Say what you like about this series, and you may feel that it borders on the voyeuristic, but it certainly offers variety. Eleven escapes are featured tonight and no two are even

**Face to Face**  
BBC2, 11.15pm  
For once the minimalist style of *Face to Face*, in which we see the subject in a black space and nothing else, lets it down. Apart from that film she made in Britain featuring 365 bare bottoms, the artistic output of Yoko Ono has remained largely a mystery outside its own rarefied company. Str-jeremy Isaacs does his best to get her to elucidate a body of work that encourages her to paint, to enlighten him and therefore us. The programme tries out for visual illustration. All the same the conversation is far from wasted. It brings out Ono's perceptive and culturally diverse life. Japanese by origin but spent mostly in the United States, and draws forth a detailed account of her relationship with John Lennon who was responsible for breaking up the Beatles. Peter Waymark

**Postscript: Taking the Waters**  
Radio 3, 9.35pm  
No, not another series about privatised utilities: this one delves much deeper into history and some of the people that Kathleen Griffin meets are more interesting than the boys round at the water board. The series runs every night this week, with each programme visiting a different spa in a different country. Tonight the destination is Cheltenham, where the programme starts with the opening of the annual music festival. That event has to some extent eclipsed the spa, as has the competition from Bath. But as someone remarks tonight, water and music have much in common as restorative agents. The history of spas is fascinating, even if the evidence for the merits of hanging about in steaming water is not especially convincing.

**The Late Book: Lucky You**  
Radio 4, 12.30am  
Carl Hiaasen is a Florida journalist who also writes some of the most wickedly funny crime fiction around. His work is not to every taste but it deserves this radio showcase. *Lucky You* is Hiaasen's latest novel and it is pitched in Britain's loathsome lottery. The story will concern two men who buy a winning lottery ticket, which, given that the prize is \$28 million, ought to be enough for anybody. But the cash has to be split between the men and a lone woman who also has a winning ticket, so the men set out to find "the wessie" with the other ticket. The book is the story of their quest, but always with Hiaasen's work, there is much more going on. Peter Barnard

**RADIO 1**  
6.30am Kevin Greening and Zeb 6.30am Simon Mayo 12.00 In Whaley Includes at 12.30pm Newsbeat 2.00 Mark Radcliffe 4.00 Dave Pearce 5.45 Newsbeat 6.30 Steve Lamacq 7.15 Evening Session 8.30 Trade Update 8.40 Andy Kershaw 10.30 Mary Anne Hobbs 1.00am Clive Wainman 4.00 Chris Moyles

**WORLD SERVICE**  
6.00am Newsday 6.30 Europe Today 7.00 News 7.15 Call the Show 7.30 The Economist and the Editor's Aun 7.30 The Village Chart Show 8.00 News 8.15 Radio 4 Thought 8.15 International Question Time 8.00 News; News in German (6.45 only) 8.05 World Business Report 8.15 On the Rocks 9.30 Westway News 9.45 Sports Report 10.05 Newsday 10.30 Omnibus 11.00 Newsday 11.30 Jazzmaster 12.00 News 12.05pm World Business Report 12.15 Britain Today 12.30 Seven Days 12.45 Sports Roundup 1.00 Newsday 2.00 News 2.05pm World Business Report 2.15 Britain Today 3.15 Westway Access 3.30 World Market 4.00 News 4.15 Seven Days 4.30 The World Today (6.45 only) News in German 4.45 Britain Today 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 World Business Report 5.45 Sports Roundup 6.00 Newsday 6.30 Counterpoint; News in German (6.45 only) 7.00 News 7.01 Outlook 7.25 Pulse for Thought 7.30 Multitrack Hit List 8.00 Newsday 8.00 News 8.05 World Business Report 8.15 Britain Today 8.30 Braving the Deep 10.00 Newsday 10.30 The World Today 10.45 Sports Roundup 11.00 Newsday 11.05 Outlook 11.30 Multitrack Hit List 12.00 Newsday 12.30pm Westway 12.45 Britain Today 1.00 Newsday 1.30 Seven Days 1.45 Just a Taste 2.00 Newsday 2.30 On Screen 3.00 News 3.05 World Business Report 3.15 Sports Roundup 3.30 Civilization 4.00 Newsday 4.30 Europe Today 5.00 Newsday 5.30 Europe Today

**RADIO 2**  
6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30am Anne Robinson 1.30pm Debbie Thompson 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.35 John Durr 7.00 Humphrey Lyttelton 8.00 Malcolm Lockyer 8.30am John Peel 9.00am Best Days 9.00am Big Band Special 9.30am Haydn Over Britain 10.30am Richard Allison 12.05am Steve Maclean 3.00am Annie Onassis

**CLASSIC FM**  
6.00am Breakfast with Bailey 8.00 Henry Kelly Includes Record of the Week and a chance to hear Michael Barry's new album 12.00 Lunchtime Request with Jane Jones 3.00pm Concerto. Paganini (Violin Concerto No 3 in E) 5.00pm Jerry Clark. Includes Concerto in C minor and Atanarjath Romances 5.30pm Newswatch 7.00 Smooth Classics of Seven 9.00pm Evening Concert. Elgar (Symphony No 1), Chopin (Piano Concerto No 1 in E minor), Sade (Symphonie No 1); Darius (Violin Sonata No 1), Beethoven (Symphony No 1 in C) 11.00pm Morn at Night 2.00pm Concerto Paganini (Violin Concerto No 3 in E) (1) 3.00pm Mark Griffiths

**RADIO 3**  
6.00am The Breakfast Programme 8.00 Nicky Campbell 12.00 Micky with Max 2.00pm Oldryd on Five 4.00 Yellowknife with Alan Womack 7.00 News Extra 7.30 The Monday Match: Dufferrine in Celtic. Will Shilton introduces commentary on tonight's Scottish Cup tie 9.30 Dream Teams. Steve Grant chooses his ideal Scottish side 10.00 News Talk. Political discussion 11.00 News Extra 12.00 After Hours 2.00am All Night 5.00 Morning Reports

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6.00am Breakfast with Bailey 8.00 Henry Kelly Includes Record of the Week and a chance to hear Michael Barry's new album 12.00 Lunchtime Request with Jane Jones 3.00pm Concerto. Paganini (Violin Concerto No 3 in E) 5.00pm Jerry Clark. Includes Concerto in C minor and Atanarjath Romances 5.30pm Newswatch 7.00 Smooth Classics of Seven 9.00pm Evening Concert. Elgar (Symphony No 1), Chopin (Piano Concerto No 1 in E minor), Sade (Symphonie No 1); Darius (Violin Sonata No 1), Beethoven (Symphony No 1 in C) 11.00pm Morn at Night 2.00pm Concerto Paganini (Violin Concerto No 3 in E) (1) 3.00pm Mark Griffiths

**VIRGIN RADIO**  
7.00am Chris Evans 10.00 Ruca Williams 1.00pm Nick Abbott 4.00 Robin Banks 7.00 Cairns Jones 10.00 Mark Forster 2.00am Richard Popham 5.00 Jeremy Clark 5.00 Jeremy Clark

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**TALK RADIO**  
6.30am Kinay Young with Bill Overton 8.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Loraine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 Peter Dinkley 7.00 Anna Raftern 9.00 James Whale 1.00am Ian Collins 5.00 The Early Show

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**RADIO 4**  
6.00am On Air, with Andrew McGregor. Includes Mozart (Divertimento in F); Dvořák (The Water Goblin); Walton (Overture Portsmouth Point); Bach (Double Violin Concerto in D minor); Wagner (Ride of the Valkyries); Beethoven (Piano Sonata in F minor)  
9.00 Masterworks, with Peter Hobday. Includes Beethoven (Overture Egmont); Berlioz (Les Nuits d'été); Bach (Violin Sonata No 1 in G minor); Brahms (Piano Sonata No 2 in F sharp minor)  
10.30 Artist of the Week: James Bowman. This week, the countertenor James Bowman talks to Joan Bailey about the influences that have led to his success  
11.00 Sound Stories, with Richard Baker. Marcel Moyse was an orphan from the Jura region of France who became the most influential flute teacher of his century  
12.00 Composer of the Week: Dmitri Shostakovich 1.00pm The Radio 4 Lunchtime Concert. Live from St John's Smith Square, London. Wanders: Trio Violin and Cello, Jean-Marc Phillips, violin, and Raphael Pidoux, cello. Haydn (Piano Trio in E flat); Chocquet (Piano Trio in G minor)  
2.00 The BBC Orchestra. BBC Symphony Orchestra, under Andrew Davis and Pierre Boulez. Kyôka: Takasawa, violin. Stravinsky (Symphony in E flat; Divertimento Violin Concerto); The Rite of Spring  
4.00 Music Matters, with Ivan Hewitt. Includes Rostropovich conducting Shostakovich, and a look at the newly-formed European Opera Centre performing Mozart at Buxton (1)

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**RADIO 5**  
6.00am On Air, with Andrew McGregor. Includes Mozart (Divertimento in F); Dvořák (The Water Goblin); Walton (Overture Portsmouth Point); Bach (Double Violin Concerto in D minor); Wagner (Ride of the Valkyries); Beethoven (Piano Sonata in F minor)  
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**RADIO 6**  
6.00am On Air, with Andrew McGregor. Includes Mozart (Divertimento in F); Dvořák (The Water Goblin); Walton (Overture Portsmouth Point); Bach (Double Violin Concerto in D minor); Wagner (Ride of the Valkyries); Beethoven (Piano Sonata in F minor)  
9.00 Masterworks, with Peter Hobday. Includes Beethoven (Overture Egmont); Berlioz (Les Nuits d'été); Bach (Violin Sonata No 1 in G minor); Brahms (Piano Sonata No 2 in F sharp minor)  
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**RADIO 7**  
6.00am On Air, with Andrew McGregor. Includes Mozart (Divertimento in F); Dvořák (The Water Goblin); Walton (Overture Portsmouth Point); Bach (Double Violin Concerto in D minor); Wagner (Ride of the Valkyries); Beethoven (Piano Sonata in F minor)  
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**RADIO 8**  
6.00am On Air, with Andrew McGregor. Includes Mozart (Divertimento in F); Dvořák (The Water Goblin); Walton (Overture Portsmouth Point); Bach (Double Violin Concerto in D minor); Wagner (Ride of the Valkyries); Beethoven (Piano Sonata in F minor)  
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**RADIO 9**  
6.00am On Air, with Andrew McGregor. Includes Mozart (Divertimento in F); Dvořák (The Water Goblin); Walton (Overture Portsmouth Point); Bach (Double Violin Concerto in D minor); Wagner (Ride of the Valkyries); Beethoven (Piano Sonata in F minor)  
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**RADIO 10**  
6.00am On Air, with Andrew McGregor. Includes Mozart (Divertimento in F); Dvořák (The Water Goblin); Walton (Overture Portsmouth Point); Bach (Double Violin Concerto in D minor); Wagner (Ride of the Valkyries); Beethoven (Piano Sonata in F minor)  
9.00 Masterworks, with Peter Hobday. Includes Beethoven (Overture Egmont); Berlioz (Les Nuits d'été); Bach (Violin Sonata No 1 in G minor); Brahms (Piano Sonata No 2 in F sharp minor)  
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**CLASSIC FM**  
6.00am Breakfast with Bailey 8.00 Henry Kelly Includes Record of the Week and a chance to hear Michael Barry's new album 12.00 Lunchtime Request with Jane Jones 3.00pm Concerto. Paganini (Violin Concerto No 3 in E) 5.00pm Jerry Clark. Includes Concerto in C minor and Atanarjath Romances 5.30pm Newswatch 7.00 Smooth Classics of Seven 9.00pm Evening Concert. Elgar (Symphony No 1), Chopin (Piano Concerto No 1 in E minor), Sade (Symphonie No 1); Darius (Violin Sonata No 1), Beethoven (Symphony No 1 in C) 11.00pm Morn at Night 2.00pm Concerto Paganini (Violin Concerto No 3 in E) (1) 3.00pm Mark Griffiths

**FREQUENCY GUIDE.** RADIO 1, FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2, FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 3, FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4, FM 92.4-94.8. LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5, LW 685; SW 12.5. WORLD SERVICE, MW 648; LW 136 (12.45-5.55am). TALK RADIO, FM 103.5. VIRGIN RADIO, FM 105.8; MW 1197; LW 125. TALK RADIO, MW 1033, 1058. Television and radio feeds compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Greg and John McManis.

سكرا من الاليس

# Angels and ministers of grace defend us

Politicians are only on television about once a week, only get a car from a radio network sent round to collect them about twice a week and could probably get through half a dozen pages of a newspaper on a given day without finding their names. Naturally this exclusive existence, devoid of public exposure, gets to them once in a while. So they are only too delighted to have the BBC make a documentary about them.

This curious truth has been demonstrated as often since New Labour came to office that the cameras will soon require a cooling-off period, as with terrorist negotiations or double-glazing agreements. Robin Cook, Gordon Brown and Mo Mowlam have already invited snakes of cable into their offices, with the predictable, if coincidental, hiss of death: Cook separated, Brown rubbished by jealous outsiders beyond the lighting man's circular endorsement.

Mowlam stranded amid stalled peace talks. Now comes Clare Short, subject of *Clare's New World* (BBC2, Saturday, except Scotland). What awful fate awaits her, now that the camera team has cast its spell? Short, having spawned the gaffe that slayed the golden elephant of Montserrat, might be expected to be keeping a low profile. In a photograph of a Cabinet meeting, surely that would be her, the one hiding under the table?

Not a bit of it. Here she is, all smiles and long strides, inspecting the needy in Bangladesh, Uganda and Kenya, even signing a cheque for £20 million in Kenya ("this just might be the biggest cheque I've signed"). Short is popular with political colleagues and civil servants at the Overseas Development Ministry and one can see why: she is a fighter for the way she sees it. Not that the way a

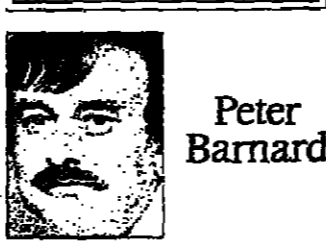
politician sees it is necessarily the way it is.

She is also thin-skinned and a touch mischievous. There has been some advance publicity about her remark in this film that it must have been someone within the Cabinet who leaked "a lie about a discussion that did take place". The leaker claimed that she had compared the Ulster Unionists to the Ku Klux Klan.

Of course, Short would never criticise a Cabinet colleague via a public speech she does it openly, in public. During a speech about alleviating poverty, shown in the film, she could not resist ending: "Much more impressive than comes at Greenwich, but I'd better not talk about that."

This was not a nasty remark, as some made about her have been nasty, but the principle applies. A dig at Peter Mandelson is not the courageous act of a brave individual.

## REVIEW



Peter Barnard

ualist, it is merely jumping on the bandwagon.

Yet Short is undoubtedly likeable and she puts in formidable hours to ensure that her beloved constituency is properly served. The enemies she perceives she has will get little grist for their mill from this profile. Certainly not as much as they must have hoped for when the news first spread that the gaffe-prone Short was allowing a

microphone to hang on her every word, a very odd decision for a politician whose every word might be the one that hangs her.

The weekend's main drama was *Our Boy* (BBC1, last night) which was the story of an East End of London couple coping with the death of their son in a hit and run accident. The core of the story was in a contrast the way that the mother, played by Pauline Quirke, grieves quietly and tries to get on with her life, while the father, Ray Winstone, becomes increasingly deranged as he clings to his son's memory, deals with his guilt, runs from his helplessness and pursues the guilty driver.

I found the twist a touch predictable the suspect was innocent but the son of the police officer investigating the crime was not. But there was a powerful ending and the screenplay, by Tony Grounds, had an authenticity that made some scenes extremely har-

rowing. Winstone and Quirke were simply outstanding as the parents, conveying something close to a perfect understanding of a plight that comes straight from the worst parental nightmare.

There was light relief to be had last night in the start of the pacey new series called *The Entertainment Biz* (BBC2), which began with the inside story of the Academy Awards. Nothing new or startling, just highly-watchable confirmation that Hollywood's belief in itself has now reached a point, somewhere beyond the absurd. As with most such programmes, the anecdote count was high. I liked one from Brenda Blethyn. She was invited to the studios of NBC to hear, and comment upon, the announcement of the Oscar nominations. In the studio green room, waiting to go on air, she discovered she was sitting with members of the OJ

Simpson trial jury. Blethyn went into the studio, heard she had been nominated and returned to the green room, where the Simpson jury stood up to applaud her.

Documentary films such as this always score if they focus on the small things, the bit part players. One limousine driver said that he had an "85 per cent victory rate", meaning that 85 per cent of the stars he drove to the Oscars won.

And the way that television journalists fill the hours before the ceremony is always good for some footage. The television journalist must convey a sense of being on the inside of every aspect of the night's activities. Thus, one young woman announced to the camera in grave tones: "I have it on very good authority that a lot of champagne is being chilled very close by."

This is journalism. It actually means: "I am standing beside a refrigerator."

### BBC1

- 6.00am Business Breakfast (46871)
- 7.00am BBC Breakfast News (T) (86245)
- 9.00am Style Challenge (8494887)
- 9.25am Change That (8406822)
- 9.50am Kilroy (T) (2407423)
- 10.30am Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (2428983)
- 10.55am The Really Useful Show (T) (8295353)
- 11.35am What Would You Do? (3018245)
- 12.00am News (T) and weather (8160055)
- 12.05pm Call My Bluff (1269784)
- 12.35pm Wipeout (866264)
- 1.00pm News (T) and weather (89932)
- 1.30pm Regional News (T) (7181587)
- 1.40pm The Weather Show (71924067)
- 1.45pm Neighbours (T) (2153080)
- 2.10pm Petroski (T) (8312591)
- 3.00pm **Lion Country** New daily series about the Longest estate, which boasts the world's first drive-through start park outside Africa (8500)
- 3.30pm Playdays (4292055) 3.50pm The Enchanted Lands (525142) 4.00pm Dodger and Badger (1105142) 4.15pm Fudge (893264) 4.35pm Record Breakers Gold (T) (8708500) 5.00pm Newsworld (T) (7287794) 5.10pm Blue Peter (T) (4053055)
- 5.35pm Neighbours (T) (899305)
- 6.00pm News (T) and weather (935)
- 6.30pm Regional News (887)
- 7.00pm This is Your Life (T) (8451)
- 7.30pm Here and Now: Miracle Men Chris Choi investigates a Christian TV channel which performs alleged miracle cures over the airwaves (T) (871)
- 8.00pm **EastEnders** A new family of restaurateurs provides a hostile reaction to the video *Plunder* (T) (8422)
- 8.30pm Birds of a Feather: Three Up, Two Down Sharon and Tracy's business falls (T) (1264)
- 9.00pm News (T) and weather (1158)
- 9.30pm **Pleasure Beach** (3/6) High summer heralds fresh emergencies for the turtur management (T) (38158)
- 10.00pm **Panorama: Branson's Pickle** John Ware reports on the failure of privatised railways to meet government targets for faster, cheaper, better travel (T) (837055)
- 10.40pm **They Think It's All Over** Aggie Brown, Scott and Stephen Fry join regulars Gary Lashner, David Gower, Rory McGrath and Lee Hurst (T) (81719)
- 11.15pm **Film '98 with Barry Norman** Reviews of *The Postman* directed by and starring Kevin Costner, *The Boxer* with Daniel Day-Lewis and Emily Watson, and Neil Jordan's *The Butcher Boy*, with Stephen Rea. Plus, interviews with the stars of the forthcoming *Good Will Hunting* (T) (28974)
- 11.45pm **Cricket: Third Test - West Indies v England Highlights** (287245)
- 12.15am **am Eagle's Wing** (1979) with Martin Sheen, Harvey Keitel and Sam Waterston. Western about the deadly conflict between an Indian warrior and a white soldier. Directed by Anthony Harvey (T) (233678) 1.55pm Weather (1405104)
- 2.00pm **BBC News 24**

**VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes**  
The numbers next to each TV programme which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+ handset. Tap in the Video PlusCode (1-9) to record, VideoPlus+ (V), Pluscode (P) and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

### BBC2

- 6.10am An A to Z of English (822966) 6.35 Simple Beginnings (8949719)
- 7.00pm **See Hear Breakfast News** (T and signing) (302682)
- 7.15pm **Blue Peter** (T) (38090)
- 7.45pm **Olympic Grandstand** Includes ice hockey, 1,500m women's speed skating, cross-country, 500m women's relay (896067)
- 8.10pm **German Globo** (4276061) 8.15 The Bible in Animation (762351) 9.45 Storyline (344428) 10.00 Teletubbies (86326) 10.30 Words and Pictures (387500) 10.45 Cats' Eyes (387305) 11.00 Look and Read (345522) 11.20 Zoo Zoo (610942) 11.40 Landmarks (201413) 12.00 Maths File (13351)
- 12.30pm **Olympic Grandstand** Includes 12.35 Figure Skating: free-dance 1.35 Ice Hockey: Czech Republic v Russia (T) (8964351)
- 2.40pm **Ethand and Mrs Simpson: Going, Going, Gone** An exclusive guided tour through the extravagant contents of the Duke and Duchess of Windsor's Paris home (T) (1454906)
- 3.30pm **News** (T) (588264) 3.35 The Village (T) (58821) 4.00 Real Rooms (T) (557210) 4.25 Ready, Steady, Cook! (557767) 4.55m Extra: Attitudes toward prostitution (833550) 5.30 Today's the Day (264)
- 6.00pm **The Simpsons** (539264)
- 6.25pm **Third Rock from the Sun** (828262)
- 6.50pm **A Woman Called Smith** (T) (480239)
- 7.00pm **Essential Winter Olympics** Includes a report on the medal hopes of British speed-skater Nicky Gooch (T) (41429)

**Chief Ainsley Harriott (8.30pm)**  
8.30 **Ainsley's Meals in Minutes** First in a seven-part series with the flamboyant chef Ainsley Harriott preparing mouthwatering meals in under 30 minutes (T) (8906)
- 9.00pm **In Sickness and in Health** Warren Mitchell and Dancy Nichols (T) (1) (8500)
- 9.30pm **Children of Divorce: Contact** Children reveal the coping mechanisms they employ (T) (85530)
- 10.00pm **Goodness Gracious Me** Last in series (T) (1882)
- 10.30pm **Newsnight** (T) (525697)
- 11.15pm **Face to Face** Yoko Ono talks to Jeremy Isaacs about her childhood and relationship with John Lennon (849784)
- 11.55pm **Weather** (862448)
- 12.00am **The Midnight Hour** (49123)
- 12.30am **Learning Zone: O.U. Behind a Mask** (8961) 1.30 The UK Mystery Plays (45456) 2.00 Schools: Special Needs (80765) 4.00 Japan Language and People (91017) 5.00 Business and Training (402838) 5.45 O.U. Pilgrimage - The Shrine at Loro (353811)

### HTV

- 6.00pm **GMTV** (5604061)
- 9.25pm **Win, Lose or Draw** (T) (8319142)
- 9.55pm **Regional News** and weather (8659993)
- 10.00pm **The Time, The Place** (T) (73852)
- 10.30pm **This Morning** (T) (58828210)
- 12.25pm **Regional News** (8247158)
- 12.30pm **News** (T) and weather (8845061)
- 12.55pm **BLT** (6757852) 1.25 Home and Away (T) (70756500) 1.50 WALES: Dr Quinn, Medicine Woman (T) (21440238) 1.50 BLT (21440238) 2.20 The Pulse (92513784) 2.50 WALES: The Pulse (T) (8107903) 2.50 West Foot Forward (6107603)
- 3.20pm **News** (T) (5583158)
- 3.25pm **Regional News** and weather (5582429)
- 3.30pm **Rosie and Jim** (1527622) 3.40 Teddycars (5591326) 3.50 The Animal Shelf (T) (425210) 4.05 Sooty's Amazing Adventures (T) (7049429) 4.15 Adam's Family Tree (T) (822806) 4.45 Art Attack (T) (679982)
- 5.10pm **WALES: The House** (T) (5108535)
- 5.10pm **Undercurrents** Young people's changing attitudes towards religion (5100353)
- 5.40pm **News** (T) and weather (704448)
- 6.00pm **Home and Away** (T) (526790)
- 6.25pm **Regional Weather** (151055)
- 6.30pm **Regional News** (T) (555)
- 7.00pm **Who You Were Here?** A horseriding holiday among the Corbières hills in the French Pyrenees; the exclusive Virgin Coach; and Monaco (T) (8177)
- 7.30pm **Coronation Street** Steve makes a mad dash with Fiona (T) (233)
- 8.00pm **World in Action** A report on the new evidence that the Home Secretary will have to consider concerning the Hillsborough aftermath (T) (1697)

**Drama in New Zealand (8.30pm)**  
8.30 **Great Escapes** Racing driver Martin Brundle introduces more video footage (2/2) (T) (8332)
- 9.00pm **Peak Practice: Body and Soul** Andrew proposes to Erica (T) (2245)
- 10.00pm **News at Ten** (T) and weather (18806)
- 10.30pm **Regional News** and weather (467535)
- 10.40pm **Fitz Lemmings Will Fly** After a 14-year-old boy is found hanged, Fitz discovers a book linking him to a teacher (T) (887451)
- 11.40pm **The Drew Carey Show** (235158)
- 12.10am **Millennium** (T) (8970524)
- 1.00pm **Football Extra** (891529)
- 2.05pm **Go! Gift** (T) (9476098)
- 3.00pm **Real Stories of the Highway Patrol** (T) (8774017)
- 3.20pm **The Time, The Place** (T) (54185982)
- 3.50pm **World in Action** (T) (38060543)
- 4.15pm **TV Nightscreen** (8163765)
- 5.00pm **Coronation Street** (T) (92388)
- 5.30pm **News** (44878)

### CENTRAL

- As HTV West except:**  
12.55pm-1.25pm **A Country Practice** 6757852, 1.50 **Blue Healers** (738212), 2.50-3.20 **High Road** (6107603), 5.10-5.40 **Shortland Street** (5106535), 6.25-7.00 **Central News** 222871, 1.00pm **Football Extra** (891529), 3.05 **Real Highway Patrol** (87749538), 3.25 **The Time, The Place** (54185982), 3.55 **World in Action** (25098514)

**WESTCOUNTRY**  
**As HTV West except:**  
12.55pm **Home and Away** (5106535), 1.25 **High Road** (6107603), 1.55 **Murder, She Wrote** (3877429), 2.50-3.20 **Gardener's Diary** (6107603), 5.10-5.40 **Home and Away** (5106535), 6.00-7.00 **Westcountry Live** (46581)

### CHANNEL 4

- 7.00pm **The Bigger Breakfast** Incorporating 8.00 Saved by the Bell (890784), 9.35 The Secret World of Alex Mack (T) 10.05 Hang Time (T) 10.35 Pugwilt's Summer (T) 11.10 The Bigger Breakfast (7873351), 11.30 **Springhill** Drama series set on a housing estate (T) (5061), 12.00 **Sesame Street** (15719), 12.20pm **Light Lunch** The guest is Will Metzer, from the cast of *Hollyoaks* (43413), 1.30 **Prairie Album** (T) (81271210), 1.50 **Way of a Gaucho** (1952) A drama set on the Argentine pampas, with Rory Calhoun and Gene Tierney, directed by Jacques Tourneur (8912036), 3.30 **Collectors' Lot** Presented by Sue Cook from Severnaks, Kent (T) (531) 4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (968) 4.30 **Countdown** (T) (6709239) 4.55 **Morrie Williams** Today's guests have all been subjected to racial or religious hate crimes (T) (7899968), 5.30 **Planet Earth** (T) (332), 6.00 **Moviewatch** Film magazine presented by Johnny Vaughan (245), 6.30 **Hollyoaks** There is a shock for Mrs Benson when she goes through her husband's jacket (T) (697), 7.00 **Channel 4 News** (T) and weather (53055), 7.55 **Citizen 2000** The children are now aged 15 and have been given a camera each to make a short film about their lives, beginning with John, who is on a vigil at Althorp, waiting for the arrival from London of the coffin of Diana, Princess of Wales (T) (844451), 8.00 **The Ship: The Christening** The shipyard prepares for the lavish naming ceremony of the *Solitaire*. The apprentices are not having an easy time of things (5/6) (T) (9238), 8.30 **Classic Plant** John Peel in praise of the combine harvester, the agricultural giant that was instrumental in the way way farmers worked the land (5/6) (T) (4974)

**ANGLIA**  
**As HTV West except:**  
12.55-1.25 **Surprise Cafe** (6757852), 1.55 **Bringing Up Baby** (21432210), 2.25-3.20 **Dr Quinn: Medicine Woman** (6326784), 5.10-5.40 **Shortland Street** (5106535), 6.25-7.00 **Anglia News** (222871)

### CHANNEL 5

- CHANNEL 5 NOW ON SATELLITE**  
Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a VideoPlus decoder will be able to receive the Channel feed of change. Frequencies: 11.100 MHz. No 63 are picture: 10.82075 GHz; sound: 7.02 and 7.20 MHz
- 6.00am **News Early** (7146719)
- 7.00 **Exclusive** (T) (4897603)
- 7.30 **Milkshake!** (7585622) 7.35 **Havakoz** Wintz's House (T) (8457806) 8.00 **Havakoz** (T) (7931142)
- 8.30 **WideWorld Bullying** (T) (7930413)
- 9.00 **Espresso** (8914790) 10.00 **Wings over the World** (T) (1268798) 10.30 **Sunset Search** (T) (823070) 11.10 **Lesca** (245087) 12.00 **News** (T) (7014429) 12.30pm **Family Affairs** (T) (7899968), 1.00 **Gold and the Beautiful** (T) (898274), 1.30 **Fame and Fortune** (T) (7898239)
- 2.00 **Beauty and the Beast** (286267) 3.00 **100 Per Cent Gold** (1266245)
- 3.30 **Shantown** (1988) with Angela Lansbury A light-based drama about the mother of a passenger on the ill-fated ocean liner. Directed by Michael Pressman (913682)
- 5.20 **Russell Grant's Postcards Bath** (19405429)
- 5.30 **Exclusive** Kevin Costner talks about his new film, *The Postman* (4493790)
- 6.00 **100 Per Cent Gold** (4490630)
- 6.30 **Family Affairs** (T) (4318055)
- 7.00 **News** (T) (1185336)
- 7.30 **Wings over the World** A look at Australia's malleo lout (4314239)
- 8.00 **The Great House Game** A visit to Cadbury, a Tudor manor house in Devon (T) (1267974)
- 8.30 **HouseBusters** Russell Grant and his team help Sarah, who is looking for Mr Right, to put her house in order (T) (1173581)
- 9.00 **Feds** (1989) A comedy with Rebecca De Mornay and Myriam Goss as FBI recruits having to prove their worth at a training academy. Directed by Dan Goldberg (T) (43314500)
- 10.35 **Dr Fox's Chart Update** (6708072)
- 10.40 **Not the Jack Docherty Show** Melinda Messenger stands in for Jack. Her guests are Bob Mills and Janet Street Porter (8344055)
- 11.25 **Tibs and Fibs** (8245862)
- 11.55 **The Comedy Store** (T) (5280036)
- 12.25am **Live and Dangerous** Includes action from last year's *Winter Extreme Games* (3575185)
- 3.45 **Asian Football Show** (9590838)
- 4.40 **Prisoner: Cell Block B** (T) (7731036)
- 5.30 **100 Per Cent** (T) (8806727)

**REBECCA DE MORRAY STARS (9.00pm)**  
9.00 **Feds** (1989) A comedy with Rebecca De Mornay and Myriam Goss as FBI recruits having to prove their worth at a training academy. Directed by Dan Goldberg (T) (43314500)
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- 5.30 **100 Per Cent** (T) (8806727)

### SATELLITE AND CABLE

- For further listings see Saturday's Vision**
- SKY TV**  
7.00pm **Street Show** (7389) 7.30 **Bump in the Night** (87719) 7.45 **The Simpsons** (84671) 8.10 **Dr Quinn: Medicine Woman** (891529) 8.30 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 8.50 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 9.10 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 9.30 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 9.50 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 10.10 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 10.30 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 10.50 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 11.10 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 11.30 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 11.50 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 12.10 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 12.30 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 12.50 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 1.10 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 1.30 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 1.50 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 2.10 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 2.30 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 2.50 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 3.10 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 3.30 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 3.50 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 4.10 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 4.30 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 4.50 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 5.10 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 5.30 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 5.50 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 6.10 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 6.30 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 6.50 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 7.10 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 7.30 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 7.50 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 8.10 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 8.30 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 8.50 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 9.10 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 9.30 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 9.50 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 10.10 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 10.30 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 10.50 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 11.10 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 11.30 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 11.50 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 12.10 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 12.30 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 12.50 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 1.10 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 1.30 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 1.50 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 2.10 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 2.30 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 2.50 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 3.10 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 3.30 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 3.50 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 4.10 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 4.30 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 4.50 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 5.10 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 5.30 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 5.50 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 6.10 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 6.30 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 6.50 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 7.10 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 7.30 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 7.50 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 8.10 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 8.30 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 8.50 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 9.10 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 9.30 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 9.50 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 10.10 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 10.30 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 10.50 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 11.10 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 11.30 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 11.50 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 12.10 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 12.30 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 12.50 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 1.10 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 1.30 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 1.50 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 2.10 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 2.30 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 2.50 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 3.10 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 3.30 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 3.50 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 4.10 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 4.30 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 4.50 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 5.10 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 5.30 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 5.50 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 6.10 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 6.30 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 6.50 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 7.10 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 7.30 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 7.50 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 8.10 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 8.30 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 8.50 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 9.10 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 9.30 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 9.50 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 10.10 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 10.30 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 10.50 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 11.10 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 11.30 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 11.50 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 12.10 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 12.30 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 12.50 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 1.10 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 1.30 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 1.50 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 2.10 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 2.30 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 2.50 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 3.10 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 3.30 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 3.50 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 4.10 **Murphy Brown** (89177) 4.30 **Murphy Brown</**



**PROFILE 43**  
Behind the scenes at Rolls-Royce

# BUSINESS

**BARRELS 45**  
Roger Bootle pours oil on troubled waters



BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

MONDAY FEBRUARY 16 1998

## Wage awards fuel fears of higher rates

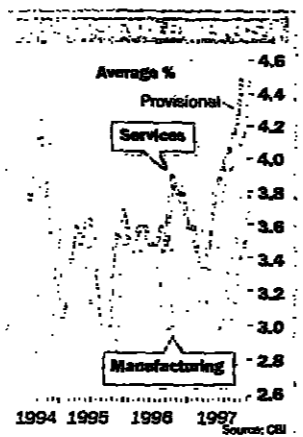
BY JANET BUSH  
ECONOMICS EDITOR

PAY settlements in manufacturing industry jumped ahead at the tail end of last year, according to the Confederation of British Industry.

Its latest Pay Databank Survey showed that manufacturing pay deals averaged 3.8 per cent in the three months to December, a marked rise from the 3.5 per cent average in the three months to November.

Pay awards in service industries were also up, averaging 4.5 per cent in the three months to December from 4.2 per cent in the three months to November.

Upward pressure on wages is the key current concern in the policy debate now raging within the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee. Three members of the eight-person committee voted for a rise in interest rates in January, partly because of fears that falling unemployment



and buoyant demand would lead to an acceleration of wage inflation.

Wages are also a key reason why the Bank of England's *Inflation Report*, published last week, said that the odds were on another rise in interest rates, in spite of accumulating evidence that the economy is decelerating.

The Bank itself cautioned

that not too much weight should be attached to figures from last autumn, the period covered by the CBI's survey.

The Bank said that January's figures are crucial because about one quarter of the deals tracked by its database occur in that month. It said that its early findings suggest that settlements appeared to have risen again in January.

This is not the message from the latest figures available from Industrial Relations Services, whose December statistics are cited in the *Inflation Report*. The IRS said that its median pay review level remained static at 3.6 per cent, the same as in December.

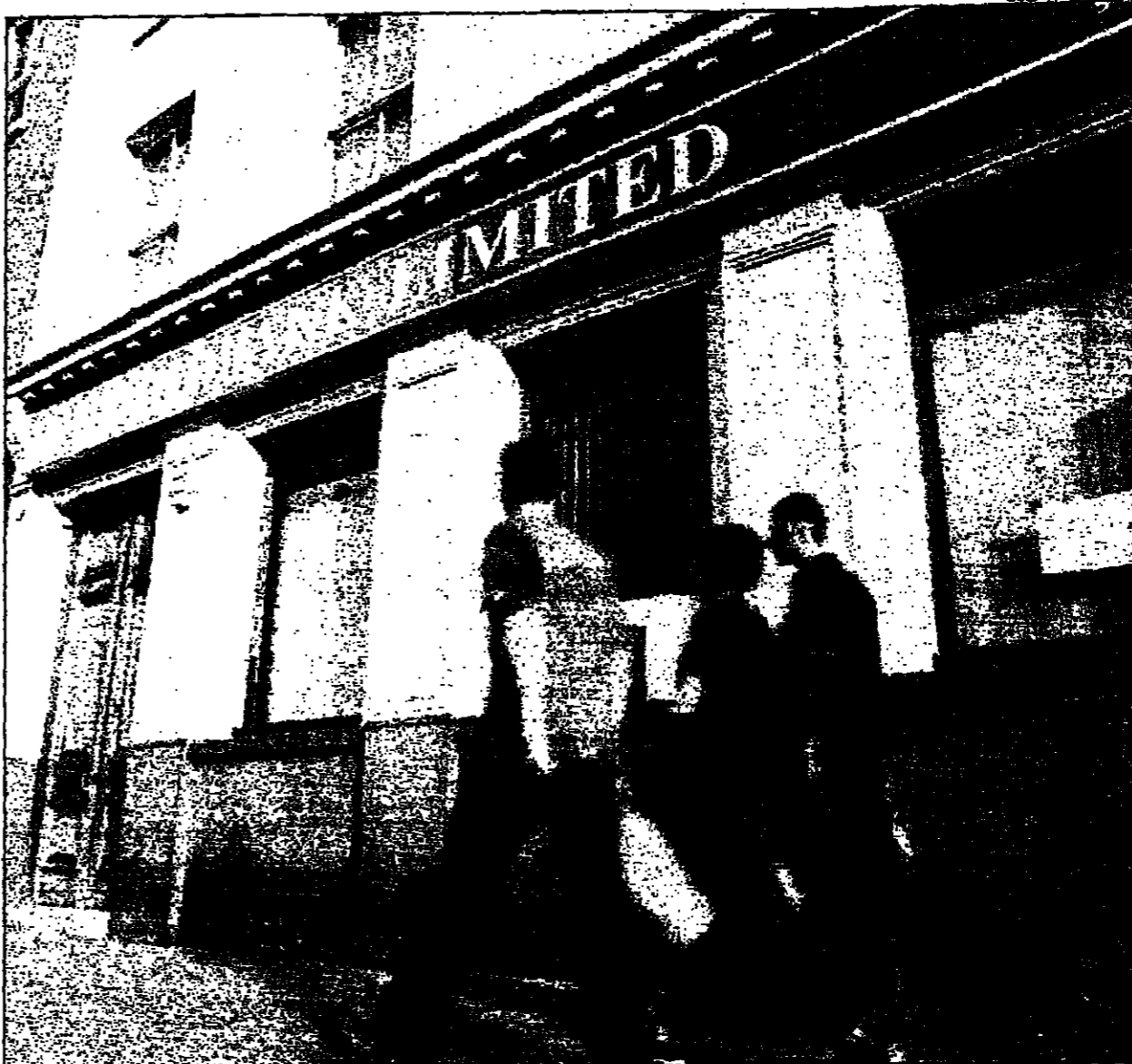
Paul Thompson, of IRS, said that the unexpected fall in the headline rate of inflation in January to 3.5 per cent should help to bring the level of wage settlements lower. Wage negotiations widely use the headline rate as a guide.

The MPC itself admitted in the minutes of its January meeting that its own interest rates rises had perversely added to upward pressure on wage settlements by pushing up the headline rate.

There are a growing number of economists who are challenging the Bank of England's pessimism on wages. Peter Warburton, UK economist at Flerings Research, said that much of the concern over the rise in median pay settlements towards the end of last year is a direct consequence of the rise in headline RPI after July's Budget and successive interest rate rises. He said that this technical distortion is already beginning to unwind, boding well for pay negotiations in the months ahead.

Geoffrey Dicks and John O'Sullivan, at NatWest Markets, argue that headline inflation will converge towards underlying inflation, which fell to 2.5 per cent in January, as last year's increases in mortgage rates fall out of year-on-year comparisons. They said: "This should produce a more inflation-benign 1998-99 pay round, especially as rising unemployment in the second half of this year is a distinct possibility."

Michael Dicks, economist at Lehman Brothers, in contrast, shares the Bank's concerns.



The closure of UBL's Commercial Street branch brings the total number of UK branch closures to six since March.

## Asian bank shrinks branches

BY JANET BUSH IN LONDON AND ZAHID HUSSEIN IN KARACHI

THE Bank of England has been involved with the closure of half of the British branches of Pakistan's third-largest bank against a background of allegations of fraud and multi-million pound losses.

United Bank Limited was founded by the same man who set up Bank of Credit & Commerce International (BCCI), which failed in 1991 amid fierce criticism of the supervisory role of the Bank of England.

This debacle arguably led to the Bank being stripped of its supervision powers by Gordon Brown, the Chancellor. UBL has closed six of its 11 UK branches since March last year when an alleged multi-million pound fraud was discovered at its Oldham branch.

Zubyr Soomro, president of UBL, told *The Times* yesterday that another two branches would be closed this year to lessen losses due to bad loans.



UBL's Mark Lane branch is no longer open for business.

but said that this move was not under pressure from the Bank of England.

The case of UBL has been highlighted by the proceedings of an industrial tribunal in Manchester, expected to run throughout this month.

A group of employees claiming unfair dismissal have made allegations of widespread fraud in the bank, saying that they have internal

documents and taped conversations to back their claims. Some former employees have long blamed the Bank of England for forcing their sackings. The spotlight on UBL is likely to move from the industrial tribunal in Manchester to Karachi this month when the International Monetary Fund is due to visit.

Progress in privatising its state banks is one condition of

a \$1.56 billion three-year loan programme to Pakistan from the IMF.

Given the catastrophic banking problems with which the Fund has been grappling in Asia, the IMF is likely to place even greater emphasis than usual on the health, or otherwise, of Pakistan's state banks.

The original deadline to privatise UBL by June looks increasingly difficult given the highly public fraud allegations in Britain.

Since Mr Soomro, a former City banker, was appointed president in July 1997, more than 5,500 employees have been made redundant and more than 150 branches have closed.

He said that the drastic action taken in the UK, which accounted for most of the bank's overseas bad debts, had ensured that recovery of bad debts had improved markedly.

He said that the UK operation would make a profit this year.

## German firms 'least ready' for euro

BY JANET BUSH  
ECONOMICS EDITOR

GERMAN companies are less well prepared for the single currency than other European firms and more pessimistic about the advent of economic and monetary union (EMU), according to a survey by Grant Thornton International and Business Strategies.

It says German companies are significantly behind others with 51 per cent saying they did not know what impact the euro would have on their business. This figure compares with an average 40 per cent in the EU and is more than twice the 25 per cent recorded in Britain — even though the UK is not planning to join during the current parliament.

Only 16 per cent of German firms felt positive about the euro, well down on the EU average of 29 per cent and Britain's 31 per cent.

Bridget Rosewell, executive chairman of Business Strategies, said: "This is a little worrying given that the Germans are likely to be introducing the euro in 1999."

The survey concludes that European small to medium sized companies are only now beginning to wake up to the implications of economic and monetary union.

Stephen Dexter, Grant Thornton partner and EMU spokesman, said: "The effects of EMU will be greater than the combined effects of decimilisation, VAT and the millennium."

He said 37 per cent of businesses in Europe had not considered or acted upon the implications of the single currency. On average, if per cent have taken action, with only 6 per cent in Britain.

John Redwood, shadow President of the Board of Trade, is taking a roadshow around Britain, urging businesses not to prepare for British membership of the euro, expressly against the wishes of Gordon Brown, the Chancellor.

Mr Redwood said that he is urging business to prepare for the euro as another foreign currency but not as Britain's domestic currency. He said that there are too many obstacles and hurdles on the way.

## Andersen seeks to break up company

BY GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

AS KPMG and Ernst & Young partners met in London to discuss the collapse of their plan to create the world's biggest accountancy company, new steps were being taken in New York to break up the existing leader of accountancy's big six firms.

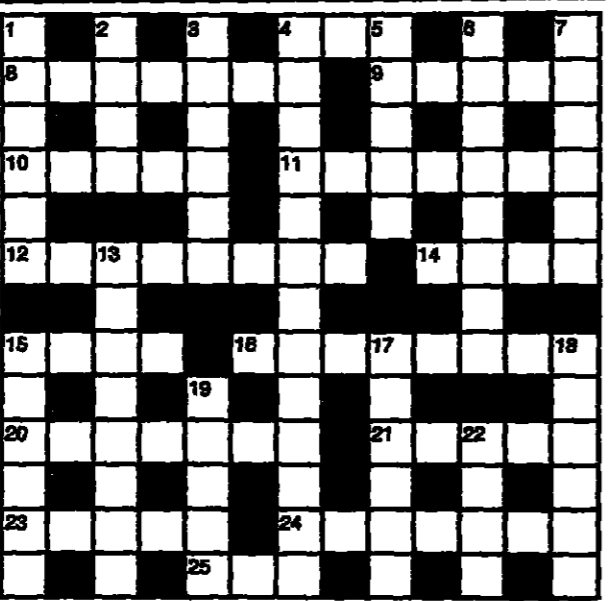
Andersen Consulting has filed a suit against Andersen Worldwide, its parent. The profitable consultancy partnership wants to stop Andersen Worldwide changing internal rules to avoid arbitration over a proposal to break up the organisation.

AC wants to go its own way and accuses Arthur Andersen, the accounting business, of breaching agreements between the two by expanding its own consulting practice.

Andersen Consulting also seeks the return of \$400 million (£250 million) in income-sharing payments.

Partners at KPMG and Ernst & Young held separate meetings. An early KMMG strategy is to target dissatisfied clients of Price Waterhouse and Ernst & Young, whose merger is still being pursued.

## TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1330

ACROSS

- 4 Driver's compartment (3)
- 8 A wrench (7)
- 9 Coordinate straighten (5)
- 10 Bonus more (5)
- 11 Poise (7)
- 12 Decisive gunfight (5-3): suddenly extend (5,3)
- 14 English saint, historian (4)
- 15 Verdi Egyptian opera (4)
- 16 Weight, intensity (8)
- 20 One messing up task (7)
- 21 Darling girl (*Peter Pan*) (5)
- 23 Play (instrument) idly (5)
- 24 Tomb inscription (7)
- 25 Block (action; of soap) (3)

DOWN

- 1 Evaluate (6)
- 2 With dull surface (4)
- 3 Unopened, unharmed (6)
- 4 Screen, in alarm (*slang*) (3,4,6)
- 5 Snooker-table line, area (5)
- 6 Swedish botanist, naming-system inventor (8)
- 7 In celebratory mode (2,4)
- 13 Humdrum: unvarying parts of Mass (8)
- 15 Head nun (6)
- 17 US non-mainland state (6)
- 18 Mower's implement (6)
- 19 Ascend (5)
- 22 Trim: undiluted (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1329

- ACROSS: 1 Swaggers 5 Jacks 8 Agony 9 Scholar 10 Duds 11 Well-being 12 Powwow 14 Bother 17 Ploughman 18 Big 19 Topsoil 20 Crave 21 Pleat 22 Tidings
- DOWN: 1 Stand up 2 Avoid 3 Guy 4 Result 5 John Brown 6 Collish 7 Spring 11 Wrong-foot 13 Whoopee 15 Regress 16 Amulet 17 Put up 18 Brawn 20 Cod

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## Blyth tipped as NatWest's next chairman

BY DOMINIC WALSH

NATWEST, the troubled banking group, is to appoint Lord Blyth of Rowington, chief executive of Boots, as a non-executive director, fuelling speculation that he will succeed Lord Alexander of Weedon as chairman next year.

The appointment of Lord Blyth to the board is expected to be confirmed when the group reveals its full-year results next Tuesday, although no reference to the issue of succession is expected. Lord Alexander has indicated that he is likely to step down at the annual meeting in April 1999, after ten years' service.

A spokesman for NatWest declined to comment on individual appointments, but added: "It is well-known that NatWest is looking for a number of high-quality non-executive directors, and we're hoping to make an announcement in the not too distant future."

However, a source close to the company said last night: "Nobody should be surprised that somebody of the calibre of Lord Blyth might be one of the new non-execs." On the subject of the chairmanship, the source added: "You'd think he'd be a likely candidate, but no decision has yet been made."

The appointment of Lord Blyth would be a break with tradition, as the top job at NatWest has always been viewed as a full-time role. But Lord Blyth would have to be non-executive as he is sched-

## Pearson to sell business publications

BY DOMINIC WALSH

PEARSON, the media and leisure group, has put a "For Sale" sign over its FT Law and Tax specialist publishing business with an estimated price tag of up to £60 million.

The company has appointed Lazard Brothers, the merchant bank in which it has a 50 per cent stake, to handle the sale, although the process is still thought to be at an early stage. FT Law and Tax publishes titles for the accountancy and legal professions, contributing annual sales of around £20 million.

Pearson refused to comment yesterday. "It's an open secret in the publishing industry that Pearson will entertain offers for the businesses."

Selling FT Law and Tax would fit the group's strategy of focusing on businesses with a global market reach and market leadership. Pearson last

year sold its Churchill Livingstone medical publishing arm, for \$92.5 million (£57 million), and it has recently been sounding out potential buyers of its Future Publishing consumer magazines division.

Marjorie Scardino, chief executive, is also scrutinising businesses in which Pearson does not have full control. Last week, the company offloaded its 6.3 per cent stake in Societe Europeenne des Satellites de Luxembourg for £160 million. Analysts believe that Mrs Scardino will soon offload stakes in Flextech and in BSKYB, an associate company of News International, owner of *The Times*. Pearson sold 4 million of its 8.8 million shares in Flextech in June last year for £24.2 million.

There were suggestions yesterday that Mrs Scardino is keen to buy out the 50 per cent stake in the Economist Group that it does not already own. A report in a Sunday newspaper claimed that Mrs Scardino, a former chief executive of the Economist Group, made an approach last August. It said that the offer was rebuffed by the Economist board, which then set about preparing a defence against a hostile bid.

Pearson's spokesman said: "The notion of a hostile bid, given the length of the relationship and the shareholder structure, is simply laughable."

However, a company insider said last night: "You'd expect the company to look at the relationship with the Economist. There have definitely been informal soundings."

## This week in THE TIMES



■ **Tomorrow** Alasdair Murray asks Lord Simon about swapping BP for GB in The Business of Politics

■ **Wednesday** Janet Bush, left, examines calls to impose tough reforms on the IMF

■ **Thursday** The lobster hot news on information, communications and entertainment

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